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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-185 *23 September 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Delegate Meets Arab League Chief, Comments

NC2209160294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate at the Arab League, today.

Ambassador Najm said he briefed the Arab League secretary general on Iraq's relations with the Security Council and the debate held on 14 September on the resolutions dealing with sanctions against Iraq.

He added that they also discussed the Arab League's recent resolutions and the coordination meeting, which was held yesterday in the presence of the Arab League's permanent delegates.

Najm said he briefed the Arab League secretary general on the Security Council president's statement that noted Iraq's response to and cooperation with the international committee on the elimination of mass-destruction weapons. He also briefed the secretary general on the positive stances of the Security Council's permanent and nonpermanent members on the need for measures to lift the blockade on Iraq.

Commenting on the meeting early this month of the international committee on prisoners, Ambassador Najm said Iraq submitted many remarks on the Kuwaiti files regarding the prisoners and that Iraq demanded the verification of the information contained in these files.

He added that the International Red Cross proposed the formation of an international committee to verify this information. He said Iraq agreed on the formation of this committee and noted that its task will be purely technical and that it will not visit Iraq.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 20 Sep

NC2309064094

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 September edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Islam Innocent of Crimes of Female Circumcision
2. Propagation Societies Urged To Unite Their Efforts
3. People's Assembly To Debate Publication of Immoral Books
4. Egypt's Stance at ICPD Praised
5. Scholars, Figures Assess ICPD Gains
6. Al-Aqsa Mosque Preacher Interviewed

ISLAM INNOCENT OF CRIMES OF FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

A 90-word report on page 1 and a detailed 900-word report on page 17 by Muna 'Abd-al-Na'im discuss the issue of female circumcision, which was highlighted by a CNN report on the circumcision of a 10-year-old girl during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The report says that Muslim scholars and doctors declared that Islam is innocent of the crimes and practices of circumcision. It cites Shaykh 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Mansur, member of the Egyptian Society for Protection From Harmful Practices, as saying: "The Koran mentions nothing about female circumcision but there are doubts about some of the sayings that are attributed to the prophet." The report cites several doctors and gynecologists on the social background and traditions of this custom prevailing in Egypt, the Middle East, and Africa and on the dangers caused when it is carried out in unhygienic conditions. They advise that if circumcision must be carried out then it should be performed by a qualified doctor in a clinic or hospital.

PROPAGATION SOCIETIES URGED TO UNITE THEIR EFFORTS

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 says that leaders of Islamic action called for uniting the efforts of Islamic propagation societies to face the challenges facing the Islamic nation. Speaking at the first meeting for unifying the efforts of propagators, several figures, including Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, warned that "the greatest danger facing Islam comes from the divisions among its sons and from straying away from God's book and the prophet's sayings."

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TO DEBATE PUBLICATION OF IMMORAL BOOKS

A 90-word report on page 1 says that the People's Assembly religious committee will discuss in November the publication by the National Book Publication Corporation of books that "deviate from morals and Islamic ethics and challenge Muslims' feelings, especially the immoral books that excite sexual instincts and attack Islam."

EGYPT'S STANCE AT ICPD PRAISED

A 270-word comment by Basyuni al-Halawani in the "Very Frankly" column on page 6 praises the Egyptian stance at the ICPD, expressing the Islamic view on the issues discussed by the conference. He says "this Egyptian stance truly reflected the people's views and also clearly expressed the ability of the official stance to interpret the masses' positions correctly and is an example of the stances that must be taken on various issues." The writer then argues that the state's positions might not always be identical to those of the masses, because the state's positions might sometimes be the right ones, with those of the masses being different, especially if the masses are influenced by "incorrect propaganda or seditious rumors while the state's views are based on facts and information not available to the man in the street." He urges the state to keep the people

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constantly informed of the facts so that there is harmony between its positions and those of the people.

SCHOLARS, FIGURES ASSESS ICPD GAINS

A 4,000-word report by Mahmud 'Ashab and Muhammad al-Abnudi on pages 12 and 13 carries comments by various figures and scholars on ICPD achievements and Egypt's gains from it. All those interviewed unanimously praise the role played by Egypt, President Husni Mubarak, and the official Egyptian delegation in promoting Islam's values and ethics and in foiling attempts that were said to have been made to have the conference sanction vice and immorality. Islamic scholar Dr. Mustafa al-Shak'ah claims that the heated debates and arguments before the conference were a positive development, because they helped enhance Islamic awareness and solidarity at the conference. Reflecting the views of those interviewed, Dr. Isma'il al-Daftar, a teacher at al-Azhar University, says he believes that one important gain was that the ICPD helped to "clarify the facts about Islam and its tolerance and showed that Islam has a clear stance and rulings on every affair, be it minor or major, thus confirming its global nature and universality." Another important gain, he adds, was that the stance taken by Egypt and all its sons "confirmed to the world Egypt's adherence to its religion and its enthusiasm for this religion's principles, shari'ah, and rulings." Shaykh Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab Fayid, secretary general of the shari'ah societies, says: "We lost nothing by attending and organizing this conference; we amended its document so that it came out in line with our shari'ah, laws, and traditions. This amendment was a declaration of our religion's stance and was in the interest of humanity." After voicing the same view on Egypt's gains, Dr. Muhammad Nabil Ghanim, head of the Islamic Shar'iah Department at Dar al-'Ulum College, touches on the issue of terrorism, saying: "The conference proved to the whole world that Egypt is a safe country for all visitors and for those living in it." He then goes on to say that "none of the claims of terrorism or threats against guests made by the enemies of Egypt materialized inside or outside the conference. It became clear to them that these were idiotic actions; they are nothing, not even a fact of life. Egypt has remained, by God's grace, the oasis of safety and security for its people and guests. The conference was evidence of the falsity of everything else that was said." Shaykh Sha'ban al-Gharbawi, official in charge of propagation in the Awqaf Ministry, highlights the solidarity of the Muslim delegations to the conference and says: "The Islamic participation and solidarity during the debate on the document helped to correct the image of Islam and Muslims." Shaykh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, shares that view, adding: "Egypt's stance together with the cooperation of the Islamic countries attending the ICPD had a deep effect on making the negative aspects of the conference document positive, acceptable to sound instincts, wise minds, and correct ethics."

AL-AQSA MOSQUE PREACHER INTERVIEWED

A 900-word interview with Shaykh 'Akramah Sabri, the preacher at the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, by Jamal Salim and Muna 'Abd-al- Na'im appears on page 20. Sabri says the Muslims are standing fast against the Israeli attacks on the mosque and have not let them get a single inch of its area. He then warns of an Israeli scheme to take over the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron following the recent decision to split it between Jews and Muslims. He warns: "The Muslims must realize that we live in an age where everything is imposed by force, which they have abandoned and left to others to use so as to dictate the Muslims' fate and seize their holy places without regard for their feelings." He adds: "If the Muslims do not wake up and adopt a united stance capable of making the international community act and support their causes, then we can kiss the al-Ibrahimi Mosque goodbye." Shaykh 'Akramah then views the current relations between the Palestinian National Authority and the Islamic Resistance Movement, expressing his belief that the two sides know the dangers of clashing. He then views the ICPD, which he says he attended "first, to show Islam's ability to solve all the issues raised and find a way to get rid of negative consequences and second, to explain the Palestinian people's suffering because of the occupation."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Accuses Israel of Non-Adherence

MM2209162094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Salih Qallab in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] [Qallab] In his latest statement, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he would oppose the holding of Palestinian elections in the period you specified and would not redeploy the Israeli Army in the manner required for such elections.

Do you see that as a violation of the Oslo agreements or as an early part of the Israeli election campaign?

['Arafat] What Rabin said is contrary to two agreements. The first is the Declaration of Principles [DOP] that we signed in Washington on the known date, and the second is the agreement that I reached with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres when I met with him in the Norwegian capital some days ago in the presence of the Norwegian foreign minister and UN representative Larson.

I had also reached agreement with Rabin on this matter, and a joint statement was issued on it when we met in Paris to receive the UNESCO prize. That is why I find these statements by the Israeli prime minister very strange. They are in violation of everything we had agreed.

[Qallab] These statements clearly constitute a violation of the agreements you have mentioned—which calls for a reference to the states that sponsored the peace process.

['Arafat] Of course, and we are now following this matter up with all the parties concerned. We are also continuing our preparations on the ground for the elections on the date set by the Palestinian cabinet, namely 1 November.

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[Qallab] Holding the elections would require redeployment of the Israeli Army in the West Bank and withdrawal from some main positions and areas.

['Arafat] One of Israel's main motives for wanting to postpone the Palestinian elections is to slither out of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the towns, villages, and populated areas in the West Bank and redeployment on that basis.

I have very carefully read Rabin's statements published by the Israeli paper MA'ARIV. The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] considers these statements extremely serious. We have therefore informed the states concerned of that, and we are following the matter up on the grounds that there is an attempt to renege on the peace process and circumvent the relevant agreements we signed with international participation. We are facing numerous Israeli attempts to avoid meticulous implementation of what was agreed.

For our part, when we signed the Oslo and subsequent agreements we did not expect that our rights would be handed over to us on a gold platter. We knew that the road would be hard and long and that we would have a difficult task ahead of us requiring a high degree of performance, unbreakable national solidarity, and Arab and international support on a level equal to the needs of peace and stability in the region.

On this occasion I declare to our people and all our Arab nation that we will continue the struggle and the work and we will not forfeit one iota of our rights until the establishment of our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital—a democratic state based on equality, justice, human rights, and political plurality.

Do you remember when, as we were leaving Beirut after the Israeli invasion in 1982, you asked me: Where to, Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat]? I told you to Palestine and Jerusalem.... True, the journey has taken longer than expected, but here we are now in Palestine. We have only regained a small part of our rights, but this is the beginning. This is the first time that Israel has withdrawn from an occupied Palestinian territory.

[Qallab] A year has passed since the Oslo agreements and the DOP in Washington. Do you really feel, on the evidence, that the Israelis are trying to renege on these agreements?

['Arafat] There are attempts to avoid implementation of these agreements in accordance with the timetables drawn up. There are attempts to procrastinate and some extremist forces centers in Israel are working against these agreements and trying to abort them by force.

In that respect we are facing what the Algerians faced before their independence, when a French secret army was formed under the command of some generals to block that independence by all ways and means.

I can reveal here for the first time that there are four secret Israeli extremist organizations, all seeking to foil the settlement even by force of arms. They are Saul's Sword, David's Sling, the Temple Builders, and Revenge [all names as published]. They have all been formed within the Israeli army to carry out terrorist operations against some Palestinian officials to foil the peace process.

[Qallab] The atmosphere at the latest meeting between you and the Israeli prime minister was not good....

['Arafat] Because of Jerusalem. To us Jerusalem is the red light which cannot be passed by under any circumstances.

[Qallab] But there are those who claim that there is a lack of personal harmony and a resentment between you and Rabin?

['Arafat] As far as I am concerned, it is not a personal matter. I act in accordance with the rights and objectives of the Palestinian people and on clear foundations and principles. There is no room for personal love or hate.... The issue between me and Rabin is the trust I bear in the name of the Palestinian people.

[Qallab] Apart from the statements we hear from the Israelis, which could be for local consumption and electioneering purposes, what is the real Israeli position on Jerusalem?

['Arafat] Our agreement with Israel contains many important things on Jerusalem, including participation by the Jerusalem Palestinians in the forthcoming Palestinian elections. That is probably one of the reasons why the Israelis are procrastinating about the elections and trying as hard as they can to postpone them.

In his famous address to the Israeli Knesset, Peres declared his willingness to let us look after the Islamic and Christian holy places in the city of Jerusalem.

After signing the Cairo agreement, Rabin and I formed a joint committee headed on the Palestinian side by brother Faysal al-Husayni and on the Israeli side by Minister Shahal to resume discussion of the Jerusalem issue. The agreements stipulate that the fate of Jerusalem must be decided as soon as possible and not later than the beginning of the third phase of the implementation of the first of these agreements.

[Qallab] The Israelis claim that you are not abiding by the timetables annexed to the agreements and that you tried without reason to push the issue of Jerusalem into the recent economic talks in Paris.

['Arafat] I have discussed the issue raised in Paris with all the Israeli officials I have met. They know that we are in agreement on the schools, hospitals, and some social bodies in the holy city. So, when we request Jerusalem's share of the international aid, we do so precisely on that basis.

[Qallab] We have heard about proposed international plans for the settlement of the Jerusalem question. What are these plans?

['Arafat] So far nothing official or serious has been submitted to us—of these plans you are talking about.

[Qallab] Not even by a third party...?

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['Arafat] Not even by a third party. On the question of Jerusalem, I want to emphasize that our people cannot possibily accept anything less than full political and religious sovereignty.

[Qallab] You talk about Jerusalem. Which Jerusalem are you talking about?

['Arafat] The Jerusalem we are talking about is the one occupied in the June 1967 war and covered by Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in that war. The Security Council resolution issued after the Khalil al-Rahman massacre stated that Jerusalem is a part of the occupied Palestinian territory, and that is regarded as a UN document.

[Qallab] Israel is now noticeably trying to make the issue of Jerusalem, which should be a motive for uniting ranks, a cause of inter-Arab and inter-Islamic conflict.

['Arafat] We are against any dispute between Arabs and Muslims over the issue. We are in favor of a unified stand to wrest Palestinian rights in Jerusalem, which are also Arab and Muslim rights. When we declare that no Palestine would agree to make any concession on Jerusalem, we mean, first and last, to the side which is occupying the holy city. We do not say that to trigger inter-Arab dispute. We Palestinians are in dire need of the support of all our Arab and Muslim brothers in order to regain our Arab and Islamic sovereignty over that city and make it the capital of our independent state.

[Qallab] In your latest decision on the Islamic establishments and associations in Jerusalem you said that you would consult with Jordan on many issues which need to be resolved. Have you started that consultation?

['Arafat] The decision was made just days ago, and we are about to go to our Jordanian brothers to discuss all aspects of that issue with them. On our delegation's latest visit to Amman the issue was discussed with the brother-officials whom we met.

[Qallab] There is unparalleled interaction between Jordan and Palestine in the aspects of demography, economics, and links of kinship, blood, and common history, so much so that any misunderstanding would reflect on two peoples who, as a matter of fact, are one people. You have suggested a confederation formula....

('Arafat interrupts before the question is completed)

['Arafat] That was the unanimous decision of our Palestine National Council [PNC] at the 1983 session in Algiers and the 1984 session in Amman. And it was reiterated at the 1986, 1988, and 1991 sessions in Algiers.

[Qallab] At a previous stage relations between you and the Jordanian monarch have reached a peak of rapprochement and understanding, which means that if you met again you would be able to resolve the current misunderstanding.

['Arafat] I hope so. We have no interest in any dispute with any fraternal Arab state. We are all for containment and the elimination of any problems or differences. We have been very reproachful because we believe that the Palestinian issue should not be discussed with any side or party, including Israel, in the absence of the Palestinians.

Whatever the circumstances or the situation, here and now and from a position of fraternity, love, and eagerness not to cause any problem we say that we understand religious custody [wilayah] and political custody as one and the same thing.

[Qallab] The average Jordanian and the average Palestinian are convinced that any meeting between you and King Husayn would solve these problems. It was rumored a while ago that you would visit Jordan.

['Arafat] I hope and wish for that. I have no objection, and I would not hesitate at all on that.

[Qallab] I have read statements by King Husayn saying that he would welcome a visit by you to Jordan, but so far mo such visit has taken place.

['Arafat] I accept the invitation and I hope that it takes place at the earliest opportunity.

[Qallab] After the recent incident in which a senior Palestinian intelligence officer was killed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements, so the Palestinian authorities claimed, the Western media raised the question: Who controls the Gaza Strip? What do you say to that?

['Arafat] We would welcome anyone who wishes to know who controls the Gaza strip. Many Arab and senior officials have visited me at my headquarters and seen for themselves on the ground that the Gaza Strip is enjoying a rare and noticeable stability and calm despite the short period that has elapsed since the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces.

In Gaza now there are many journalists and representatives of international bodies, including the United Nations. They move around in the towns and camps until late at night, yet they have still to record a single incident that could inspire the question "who controls the Strip?"

If the question is about the killing of the security officer some days ago, such incidents occur in the most important capitals of the world. Name me one city, from Tokyo, to Washington, to Tel Aviv, that does not witness daily incidents of killing, robbery, and theft.

The Gaza Strip enjoys abundant security and stability. The security forces are providing security for our people with high efficiency. Anyone who doubts that should come here; he will be most welcome to see and ascertain for himself.

When our forces entered our homeland, it was said that the Afghanistan situation would be repeated, but you can see for yourself that everything is fine and that, if civil war has hit many countries, it will not come to our country, God willing and our people willing.

[Qallab] You have been accused of standing against the "hawks" in the Palestinian security forces and of preventing them from dealing a severe blow to Hamas. How true is that?

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['Arafat] I am against the mentality of liquidation and vendettas and I am in favor of settlement of all issues through dialogue, logic, and persuasion, but I am also for enforcement of the law and for giving our people, who have suffered enough, security, stability, and a normal life so that they can begin to rebuild their homeland, destroyed by the occupation which also destroyed its infrastructure.

Everyone should remember that the PNA is concerned with the implementation and fulfillment of the agreement we have signed and will not allow anyone to undermine that agreement or try to foil it.

Just as the Egyptians and Jordanians honor the agreements they have signed and just as Syria honors the cease-fire on the Golan, we too must most willingly honor and safeguard the agreements we sign.

[Qallab] Is there a dialogue between the head of the Palestinian state and Hamas, which stands against the agreements he signed with Israel?

['Arafat] I am trying to start a dialogue with all the opposition forces. The PNA doors are open to anyone interested in such a dialogue. I tell all the opposition factions that their decision must be a Palestinian and not a foreign one.

[Qallab] We have heard that the Islamic Movement has tried to mediate between you and Hamas.

['Arafat] Yes, and the results have been very good. There is a dialogue at various levels.

[Qallab] Do believe that the dialogue with Hamas will make it resort to opposition from within the PNA?

['Arafat] We hope so.

[Qallab] Have you not sensed any development in that respect?

['Arafat] We are still at the beginning. The forthcoming elections will be one of the hallmarks in this connection. Let me point out here that Hamas has participated in elections to numerous bodies and councils recently.

[Qallab] You have held dialogues with Hamas in Khartoum and other capitals. Do you feel that you are talking to the decisionmakers when you are talking to the leaders of that movement here internally?

['ARafat] Yes, most certainly; but you should not forget that they have their organizational links abroad.

[Qallab] After the recent operation, do you not believe that the time has come to disarm the public and control arms?

['Arafat] That matter is under study. You should not forget that, before their withdrawal, the Israelis facilitated the people's possession of arms as they are doing now in the West Bank. Our information is that 26,000 firearms entered the Strip on the eve of the Israeli withdrawal.

[Qallab] The Israelis are trying to give the impression that they are endeavoring to make it easier for the PNA to succeed.

['Arafat] The daily practices denote otherwise.

[Qallab] What about the role of the American "partners," who are in constant contact with you and the Israelis?

['Arafat] Yes, but what are the practices on the ground? Four months have now passed, but not many powers have yet been transferred to the PNA. The crossings situation is still the same. Some PNA funds are still in the Israelis' hands. Education was transferred to us just before the beginning of the school year, with the the aim of making us fail.

[Qallab] The Israelis claim that the Palestinian administration is unstable and that Palestinian forces are not in control of the security situation.

['Arafat] These are excuses that we are tired of hearing.

[Qallab] It is clear that security is Israel's first priority. What are your priorities, one year after the signing of the Oslo accords?

['Arafat] Our priorities are limitless. We have been given a ruined country, and we are starting from zero to build the infrastructure and provide job opportunities for thousands of unemployed people.

[Qallab] Has any progress been made with the donor states since the meeting with Peres in Oslo?

['Arafat] Nothing. Promises are numerous.

[Qallab] What is their excuse?

['Arafat] They offer none.

[Qallab] Does that mean that the world could abandon the agreements in which it participated and whose signing it supported?

['Arafat] We are supposed to receive $690 million this year. But we have so far received only about $60 million.

[Qallab] That means that there is a plan to thwart the Palestinian experiment.

['Arafat] I have mentioned that on more than one occasion. I said that, if this continues, it means that there are people seeking to confound the PNA.

[Qallab] And what is the alternative if the donor states continue this position?

['Arafat] What I am saying to you is supported by facts and documents. The alternative is that there are people seeking to torpedo the peace process.

[Qallab] And what will happen in the region if the peace process collapses?

['Arafat] For our part, we will do our utmost to make the peace process a success. But if those opposed to this process win, an explosion will certainly occur in the region.

[Qallab] Some people say that the administration in the PNA is still confused.

['Arafat] You saw things with your own eyes: Our doors are open to everyone. Any observer can come to confirm that

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the situation—even though the PNA was set up only about four months ago—is much better than in many states that are decades and centuries old. Besides, if we were confused, we would not have decided to hold the elections in two months. Nor would we have been able to stand fast and tighten our belts, even though we have received very little under the promises made to us.

[Qallab] You have always boasted about the rich among the Palestinian people, saying that they will build the Palestinian state. But, although a year has elapsed since the Oslo accord was signed, we have seen nothing of that.

['Arafat] True, everyone is watching as we wait for a Palestinian "Marshall" to rebuild Palestine as the U.S. "Marshall" rebuilt Europe after World War II. Nevertheless, "the wind cannot shake a mountain." We will continue the march and set up a civilized and contemporary state. "And do thou be patient, for thy patience is but from God." [Koranic verse]

[Qallab] Some people accuse you of running the state like a "fruit seller" and of dealing with the various organs as though they are militias.

['Arafat] I do not want to give much time to that question. Thus I say that the Israelis handed over education to us only 48 hours before the beginning of the academic year. Nevertheless, everything is proceeding well. And preparations for the elections are continuing. The same applies to all the other facilities, despite the lack of time and resources and the difficult circumstances.

[Qallab] Israel is demanding that some clauses in the National Charter be amended. Are you considering convening a new PNC session to that end?

['Arafat] Israel continues to deny some PNC members entry. There are some Fatah Central Committee members who have not yet been allowed to enter.... The Israelis are trying to turn our agreements with them into a security issue.

[Qallab] Does that mean that, if these members are allowed to enter, you will consider convening the PNC?

['Arafat] Yes, certainly.

[Qallab] The Israelis claim that the Palestinian administration is unstable and that Palestinian forces are not in control of the security situation.

['Arafat] These are excuses that we are tired of hearing.

[Qallab] It is clear that security is Israel's first priority. What are your priorities, one year after the signing of the Oslo accords?

['Arafat] Our priorities are limitless. We have been given a ruined country, and we are starting from zero to build the infrastructure and provide job opportunities for thousands of unemployed people.

[Qallab] Has any progress been made with the donor states since the meeting with Peres in Oslo?

['Arafat] Nothing. Promises are numerous.

[Qallab] What is their excuse?

['Arafat] They offer none.

[Qallab] Does that mean that the world could abandon the agreements in which it participated and whose signing it supported?

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[Qallab] Does that mean that, if these members are allowed to enter, you will consider convening the PNC?

['Arafat] Yes, certainly.

[Qallab] The Israelis say that there are cases against those who are denied entry.

['Arafat] And there are cases against me too. We were in a state of war with the Israelis. We were not throwing flowers at one another but, rather, bombs and bullets. A new stage is ahead of us, and everyone must forget the past. What applies to me should apply to my other colleagues.

[Qallab] Is it true that there is a proposal to make Ramallah the home of the PNA, on the grounds that it falls nearly within the Jerusalem framework?

['Arafat] There is no alternative to Jerusalem at all. It is the capital of the Palestinian state. But until we achieve that aim we are entitled to set up our headquarters in the most suitable place in order to run our affairs.

[Qallab] You were in the past the keenest of all to achieve Arab reconciliation.

['Arafat] And I still am.

[Qallab] But we have seen no new initiative.

['Arafat] The reason is my preoccupations. Nevertheless, there is more than one initiative in that connection.

[Qallab] Do you believe there is hope of real Arab reconciliation?

['Arafat] I believe that it is still early. However, the Arab situation must be restored to its previous state, otherwise we will all be losers.

[Qallab] There are fears that the Palestinian state may not be democratic.

['Arafat] We were democratic when we were in the middle of a jungle of weapons and when we were numerous factions, so how should we be now that we are on our homeland's territory? The matter does not depend on a decision from me. The Palestinian people are educated people and have suffered enough, and the time has come to build a state that befits them. And the Palestinian state will be nothing but a state of democracy, pluralism, and human rights.

[Qallab] And how will partisan life and pluralism be organized?

['Arafat] With regard to the newspapers, every organization is entitled to publish its own newspaper as of now. We have allowed Hamas to publish a newspaper. As for partisan life, the committees arising from the council are studying this issue and will complete their task soon, maybe before the elections scheduled to be held in November.

Quray' Said To Reconcile With 'Arafat; Meets Ross

TA2209114494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Palestinian Economics Minister Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala') said he has resolved his differences with Yasir 'Arafat and thus was able to participate in yesterday's Gaza meeting with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross.

The chief Oslo negotiator and Palestinian financial manager had stayed away from two important earlier economics meetings in Cairo and Paris and last week's Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] meeting. This fueled reports of his impending resignation, which would have further reduced the credibility of Palestinian claims to economic self-management.

Quray' said he had resolved his differences with 'Arafat concerning the running of economic affairs. He said 'Arafat had agreed that "more experts be involved in planning and implementing economic policy." But he stopped short of saying 'Arafat had agreed to reduce his own authority over financial matters.

Quray', director-general of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), which 'Arafat chairs, said that "he never intended to resign, but there were issues to be discussed concerning PECDAR and other economic matters."

In the meeting with the American delegation, which he characterized as "good and positive," Quray' was supported by PECDAR economist Samir Hulaylah. Altogether, Quray' said he was confident that by the end of the year the PNA would receive about $400 million from donors, through bilateral agreements and through UN agencies, UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] and UNDP [UN Development Program]. This compares with $630 million originally expected.

The Palestinians and Americans also discussed outstanding political issues, the second stage of the Oslo accord, Israeli redeployment beyond Gaza and Jericho, and elections in the territories. The Palestinians accused Israel of delaying the elections. Israel has until now cited Palestinian lack of financing as a cause for delaying transfer of additional authority.

Says Israel Trying 'To Evade' DOP

NC2209195994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-al-'Ala', an economics official in the Palestinian self-rule authority, disclosed to

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MBC details of some talks held with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross. In an interview with our correspondent Mahir Shalabi he warned against Israel's attempts to evade the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and to supplant it with a number of substitute agreements.

[Begin recording] [Quray'] We reviewed the difficult economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the failure of the meeting of the donor states held in Paris, and the recent agreement reached in Washington. We also reviewed the initiative issued by the U.S. vice president on the U.S. private sector's participation in joint projects with the Palestinians. We reviewed the subject of the Arab boycott of Israel. We discussed the possibility of a tripartite Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli meeting.

[MBC Correspondent Shalabi] From the perspective of your understanding of the Oslo Agreement, in which you were the chief negotiator, do you believe that the agreement is not being implemented and that the peace agreement you reached in Oslo has not started yet?

[Quray'] In fact, I believe that there is an attempt to evade the DOP. I am afraid there is a policy of attempting to supplant it with a number of substitute agreements. This is a very serious matter. Therefore, our policy must focus on moving toward the interim agreement. We want to disband the Israeli civil administration. We want to demand the withdrawal of the Israeli military government from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We want to have all powers in the West Bank. This is our right. This is what the agreement has given us. This is not demolition of authority but transfer of authority. This is what we want now. This is the real battle on which all our efforts must focus. The Israelis must not prevaricate or maneuver at all. There will be no peace if they try to evade this issue.

[Shalabi] Yesterday there was a meeting between the Islamic Resistance—Hamas—and the Palestinian National Authority. How do you view these meetings, especially in view of this charged atmosphere?

[Quray'] The fact that this meeting was held was a very positive step. This meeting between a very high Hamas representative and Chairman Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was a very positive step serving Palestinian national unity. [end recording]

'Urayqat Says Israel Delaying Elections

JN2209201794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PNA "local government minister," by Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Awad] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: Have you postponed the date of legislative elections in the Palestinian territory set by the PNA [Palestinian National Authority]?

['Urayqat] In fact, we have neither postponed the elections nor announced any postponement at all. We say we have set the date of elections for November, or before the end of this year, at most. We also say that in light of the meeting attended by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Israeli generals, they are obstructing the elections in an organized way. They were not satisfied with preventing us from conducting a social survey in the West bank and Gaza; they were not satisfied with not giving us the lists of voters; and they were not satisfied with making threats to close down the regional offices we intend to open in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Rabin said frankly that the elections will not be held for several months.

['Awad] Their condition is not to also raise the issue of Jerusalem and the settlements?

['Urayqat] They signed the Declaration of Principles [DOP] in Washington. The DOP clearly stipulates that the Arab inhabitants of East Jerusalem will participate in the elections. This participation means voting and nomination. They are delaying, procrastinating, and obstructing the elections for three reasons:

First, they want to disavow what they signed regarding the participation of the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem in the elections; they do not want to redeploy the Israeli military forces outside the populated areas in the rest of the West Bank, as stipulated by the DOP, provided that this takes place before the elections; they are not only procrastination, they also aim at obstructing the elections because it is the heart of the DOP.

['Awad] Dr. Sa'ib: Shim'on Peres this morning said Israel is not obstructing the elections or the discussion of this issue. Practically, Israel is procrastinating in holding the elections. The Palestinian side insists on discussing the issue of elections on 28 September. Is Israel ready to sit down with the Palestinian side on this date?

['Urayqat] We agreed in Oslo—in the presence of His Excellency Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, Norwegian Foreign Minister Godal, and the UN representative (Terry Larson)—to hold a round of talks on elections on 28 September. We are fully ready for such a round of talks. So far, however, they have not contacted us. What I can say is that Rabin says he is not obstructing the elections. However, he is aware that the occupation forces prevented the social survey teams from carrying out their work and that they have not given us the list of voters. General Rothschild threatened, in front of Peres, to close down regional offices of elections if we open them.

The world, our partners in the European Union, and Peres must realize these facts.

Rabin said a few hours ago that the elections will not take place for months. The Israeli generals cast doubt on the possibility of withdrawal and redeployment, out of fear for the security of the settlers, as they claim. Vis-a-vis all that, we do not say that Israel is only delaying the elections, but it is also deliberately and systematically hindering the process of preparing for the elections and the elections

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themselves. We have made our position known and delivered official documents, including a timetable setting a date for the elections before the end of this year. The Palestinian authority announced that it is ready to hold elections in November 1994. We are fully prepared for the elections. However, Israeli measures that are designed to undermine our attempts to hold elections practically undermine the overall DOP.

['Awad] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, are there efforts to hold a summit between His Excellency President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Urayqat] In fact, the possibility is there, but I am not talking about procedural matters. I am saying that Rabin is disowning what has been signed. Look at what has happened to the crossings, the safe corridors, the size of Jericho, the elections themselves, the redeployment, the revision of the military laws and orders in force. We say that Israel has implemented only a tiny portion of what it has signed in Washington. In itself, this places the agreement as a whole in a very difficult and critical situation. I believe that their continued hampering of the elections, their procrastination, and their hindrances will eventually not only wreck the elections, but also the DOP, for the elections are the core and heart of the DOP.

['Awad] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, this is my last question: A report was issued yesterday by the institute for peace-related data and the Israeli peace bloc saying that half of the clauses contained in the DOP have not been implemented. The report accused Israel, and specifically Rabin, of this obstruction. What do you say, one year after the signing of the Oslo agreement, half of which has not been implemented so far?

['Urayqat] I believe it is inaccurate to say that half of its clauses have been implemented. In the West Bank, which constitutes 92 percent of the Palestinian territory agreed upon in the DOP, there has been no redeployment. Many remaining issues in the Gaza-Jericho agreement have not been implemented. I have mentioned some points, such as the crossings, corridors, the size of Jericho, checkpoints, and others. There is systematic obstruction. If Israel continues to hinder the election process, this practically means that it is destroying the DOP which it signed and vowed to respect.

['Awad] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, many thanks.

['Urayqat] Not at all.

'Arafat Rejects Sudan's Invitation for Hamas Talks

JN2309100794 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Palestinian sources in Cairo have informed AL-ITTIHAD that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday rejected an invitation by Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, to visit Sudan for talks with Sudanese officials and leaders of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. The talks would be aimed at reaching a firm agreement in order to turn over a new leaf in the relationship between the Palestinian National Authority and Hamas and prevent the occurrence of acts of violence between them in the self-rule areas. The sources added that al-Bashir and al-Turabi informed 'Arafat that they had actually reached points of agreement in this regard with Hamas leaders in Sudan.

Releases 3 Hamas Members

NC2209121794 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 22 (AFP)—The Palestinian Authority released from jail three Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) members after talks here between Yasir 'Arafat and Hamas leaders, officials in the group said Thursday [22 September].

The three were arrested after a senior Palestinian police officer on the autonomous Gaza Strip died during an exchange of fire near the town of Rafah last Friday.

The Hamas officials named one of the trio as Kamal Khalifah, the head of the fundamentalists' armed wing for the Rafah and Khan Yunus area. He was wanted for more than two years by Israel.

The other two were caught at Khan Yunus hospital where they went to visit a Hamas guerrilla who was wounded in the exchange.

Hamas said Palestinian police opened fire and killed their own officer, while the police blamed the Islamic hardliners.

'Arafat met Hamas leaders Mahmud al-Zahhar and Isma'il Haniyah for more than an hour on Wednesday night in what the PLO chairman's spokesman described as "a bid to resolve differences between the two organizations."

Al-Zahhar went to Gaza City jail after the talks and came out with the three men, the officials said.

Hamas opposed the PLO's autonomy deal agreed with Israel in September 1993 and is fighting on against occupation.

Several crack downs by the Palestinian police on Hamas members after murders of Israelis have ended with the release of virtually all the suspects.

Cooperative Movement Says Jordan's Staff Laid Off

JN2209191094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Tahsin al-Faris, identified as rapporteur of the Cooperative Movement in the West Bank, by Sa'id Mu'addi, from the "With the Events" program; date and place not given—recorded]

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[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Tahsin al-Faris, rapporteur of the Cooperative Movement, can you comment on the Jordanian Government's decision to lay off cooperative organization workers in the West Bank?

[Faris] We were informed yesterday that a cabinet decision was made laying off all 48 employees of the cooperatives. These handle a large cooperative sector—agricultural and non-agricultural. We have 387 agricultural societes and 299 non-agricultural societies. We have 234 [word indistinct] student and school socieities. Their counterparts on the east bank are approximately 700. They have carried a heavy burden, organizing and educating the movement and holding democratic elections and applying cooperative principles. The decision was made now because in the beginning the Awqaf and cooperatives were not disengaged, in view of their association with the people and their supervision of Arab goods exported to the Arab world and Jordan.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Tahsin, what is the future of these cooperatives?

[Faris] I advised his excellency the president of this development. We will seek an interview with him and then a Palestinian decision will be made declaring the birth of a Palestinian cooperative society to handle the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Mu'addi] Will the employees of the societies who have been laid off be compensated?

[Faris] Yes, the government has asked the Finance Ministry to pay salaries and compensation immediately.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Tahsin al-Fairs, do you think the decision was made against the backdrop of strained ties between the PLO and Jordan?

[Faris] I have no doubt that it is a political decision. But it is not likely to strain relations. The employees have not been paid their salaries for 18 months, on the grounds that we are now the charge of the PLO, not Jordan. Personal reasons must have been behind laying off that big number. The movement now needs assistance from all concerned parties, including foreign organizations. Hopefully, our Palestinian state will create a new cooperative pyramid to serve this sector. This is because the cooperatives advance development. Cooperatives and development are interdependent. Hopefully, they will serve our country.

[Mu'addi] Will the fate of the staff of the Awqaf and Islamic instituions in Jerusalem and the West Bank be the same as that of the cooperative societies?

[Faris] It sounds like it will. All institutions will enjoy independence and be the responsibility of the Palestinians. This is because Jordan [words indistinct].

[Mu'addi] Thank you so much.

[Faris] You are welcome.

Tunnels Between Rafah, Egyptian Borders Discovered

TA2209183894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander in chief of the security service and police, announced a while ago at a hastily called news conference in Rafah that the Palestinian security authorities discovered 10 underground tunnels that link the Rafah region and the Egyptian border. In answer to a question, Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf said that these tunnels were used to smuggle weapons and drugs and that they were dug many years ago.

Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zuhdi reports that the news conference had been arranged for Colonel Tawfiq Jabr, head of the Rafah intelligence service, but the appearance of Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf instead of Col. Jabr indicates the significance which the Palestinian Authority attaches to this issue.

EU Grants National Authority $7.5 Million in Aid

JN2309110094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestine News Agency, WAFA, reports that the European Union has officially agreed to allocate $7.5 million in aid to the National Authority. The news agency adds that the sum will be invested in the agricultural, technical, and educational sectors.

Finance Ministry Official on Tax Collection

JN2209125294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Interview with Dr. 'Atif 'Alawinah, under secretary of the PNA "Finance Ministry," by correspondent Ahmad Zaki; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaki] Dr. 'Atif 'Alawinah, PNA [Palestinian National Authority] Finance Ministry under secretary, good morning.

['Alawinah] Good morning to you.

[Zaki] When will you start collecting taxes from the inhabitants of the occupied territories and the PNA?

['Alawinah] Dear brother, we will start negotiations today with the Israeli side to arrange for the practical transfer of power —the steps and how to take over from the Israeli side. A meeting is scheduled for this purpose at 1030 today. We will resume the negotiations—these are not negotiations but arrangements—on Sunday. God willing, we will be able on Sunday to set the date for the transfer of power. Brother Ahmad, we expect to take over early in October, God willing.

[Zaki] What will you discuss today?

['Alawinah] We will discuss the takeover of the departments, in terms of buildings, properties, and preparing inventories. Of course, the list of properties is a long one, not to mention the list of Palestinian demands to the Israeli side. We will discuss these matters, how ready the Israeli side is to hand them over, and how prepared we are to assume responsibility for them.

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[Zaki] Is there a specific date for receiving the dossiers and files?

['Alawinah] No specific date has been set, as yet. However, as I mentioned earlier, God willing, there is a semi-verbal agreement that the takeover be carried out early in October.

[Zaki] Dr. 'Atif, which taxes will the PNA collect from the citizens?

['Alawinah] According to the Cairo agreement, the early-empowerment agreement, the [Israeli] Civil Administration powers in the field of collecting income taxes and the value-added tax will be transferred to the PNA at the present time. The real estate taxes and other taxes will continue to be collected by Israel for financing the other sectors.

[Zaki] The occupation authorities have adopted several tax collection policies toward the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The payment of taxes to the occupation has become linked to repression, tyranny, and injustice. Now, the situation has changed. What tax policies will the PNA adopt in the interest of the inhabitants of the occupied territories and those in the PNA territories?

['Alawinah] We have been calling and we will continue to call for, and to implement, God willing, an equitable taxation policy that will take into consideration the taxpayer's circumstances, and that will be in line with the acknowledged general principles of finance.

The PNA has three main objectives: The first is to secure the necessary revenues to finance the current expenditures of the PNA ministries. The second is not to harm the Palestinian economy's ability for growth and development. The third is not to burden the consumer by decreasing the taxes levied from the final consumer.

[Zaki] How will the Palestinian citizens be convinced to pay taxes?

['Alawinah] There are many ways, the most important being information about the taxes. We must impress on the Palestinian taxpayer that the current policy differs from the past one. This is because he now contributes to building his independent state, because he is performing his duty, because he pays taxes instead of military service, and because he pays taxes to finance the services which will benefit him, his neighbors, and his relatives.

[Zaki] Dr. 'Atif 'Alawinah, under secretary of the PNA's Finance Ministry, thank you.

Settlers Participation in Elections Rejected

JN2209123994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 20, 17

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestinian National Council [PNC] and the PLO Central Council, has rejected the participation of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem in the Palestinian legislative elections scheduled for November.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y in Cairo, Subayh said that the settlers and settlements are part of the Israeli occupation and should be removed when the occupation ends. He said that their presence violates international legitimacy and laws.

Subayh said that the issue of settlers and settlements will be discussed at the end of 1995 at the latest, when a final solution is discussed.

Subayh said that the participation of the settlers in the elections is an Israeli attempt to bestow legitimacy on them, and this is rejected in part and parcel.

Subayh also rejected the convocation of the forthcoming PNC session, the 21st session, in Gaza except under complete Palestinian protection, a democratic atmosphere, and far from any Israeli military presence. He affirmed that the decision to convene the PNC should be a Palestinian decision without foreign interference or demands. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Cites 'Contacts' With Gulf States

JN2309082794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Sep 94 p 24

[Text] Damascus—AL-RA'Y—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has revealed that the DFLP has made contacts with a number of Gulf states. He said these contacts will be furthered by a tour of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and other capital cities that he did not specify.

He said: There is a dialogue between the DFLP and the brothers in the Gulf states, which I hope will become warm.

Poll Shows Majority Support Fatah in Elections

TA2209170694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 3

[All figures as published]

[Text] The following are results of an opinion poll conducted by the Nabulus-based Center for Palestine Research and Studies about the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and elections:

1. Last month a municipal council in Gaza and a municipal committee in Nabulus were appointed. What do you think about these appointments?

A. Support, 21.1 percent.
B. Support temporarily in preparation for municipal elections, 44.6 percent.
C. Oppose, 23.9 percent.
D. No opinion, 10. 4 percent.

2. How do you feel about the PNA two months after its inception in Gaza and Jericho?

A. My support for the Palestinian leadership has increased, 25.2 percent.
B. My support for the Palestinian leadership has decreased, 17.2 percent.

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C. I have not changed my positive opinion about the leadership, 27.9 percent.
D. I have not changed my negative opinion about the leadership, 19.2 percent.
E. No opinion, 10.5 percent.

3. What impact, in your view, will the Jordanian-Israeli agreement signed last month in Washington by King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin have on Palestinian-Jordanian relations?

A. It will not affect these relations, 25.4 percent.
B. It will have a positive effect on these relations, 18.6 percent.
C. It will have a negative effect on these relations, 40.6 percent.
D. No opinion, 15.4 percent.

4. What is the best means of choosing members for the Palestinian council of the Palestinian transitional self-rule authority?

A. Appointment by the PLO, 11.2 percent.
B. Appointment by political groups, 7 percent.
C. Elections, 78.8 percent.
D. Other means, 3 percent.

5. Will you participate in elections for a Palestinian council?

A. Yes, 65.1 percent.
B. No, 19.6 percent.
C. Not sure, 15.3 percent.

6. If elections are held today, for which candidates would you vote?

A. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], 13.9 percent.
B. The People's Party, 1.7 percent.
C. The Democratic front for the Liberation of Palestine, 2 percent.
D. FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union], 2.3 percent.
E. Islamic Jihad, 3 percent.
F. Fatah, 39 percent.
G. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 2.3 percent.
H. Independent Islamists, 4.3 percent.
I. Others, 4.5 percent.
J. None of the above, 14.7 percent.

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Algeria

Zeroual Receives Libyan, Mauritanian Envoys

LD2209142994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Excerpt] At the presidency this morning President Liamine Zeroual received the envoys of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya.

The first envoy to be received by the head of state was Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for the Great Man-made River Project. After leaving the president's office the Libyan official made this statement to the national press which was recorded for the radio by Fatima Zahra Arous:

[Begin recording] [Al-Talhi] I had the honor of being received by his excellency the president. As you know, I was sent to him by the brother leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. I handed over a written message from the brother leader and I also conveyed a verbal message to [the president]. I also conveyed the brother leader's thanks and great appreciation for his acceptance of the brother leader's invitation to attend the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution which was greatly esteemed by the brother leader and the Libyan Arab people.

[Arous] Did the message concern the convening of an Arab reconciliation conference in Cairo, which Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi recently called for when he sent a special envoy to Arab League Secretary-General Ismat 'Abd al-Majid who welcomed the Libyan proposal, particularly given that the 102d Arab League session did not have any satisfactory results despite the obvious concern for Arab reconciliation?

[Al-Talhi] Yes. The brother leader's message to his excellency the president comes within this framework. It is a call for convening an Arab summit through which [word indistinct] the current Arab situation can be overcome and which can be a reconciliation conference for the Arab nation. [end recording]

The head of state also received Mauritanian Finance Minister Lamrabott Sidi Mahmoud Ould Cheikh Ahmed, who made the following statement:

[Begin Lamrabott recording] I had the great honor of being received by his excellency the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual. I conveyed to him greetings from his brother the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Maaouiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya. We talked about the prospects for fruitful cooperation between Algeria and Mauritania and means of bolstering it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Democratic Leader on Resisting Fundamentalists

BR2209130494 Brussels LE SOIR in French 22 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Khalida Messaoudi, vice chairman of the Movement for the Republic, by Hadji Khedoud in Algeria; date not given: "The Release of Islamic Salvation Front Leaders in Algeria and the Country's Future"]

[Text] [Khedoud] You are the sworn enemy of the Algerian fundamentalists, in fact condemned to death by the Armed Islamic Group, and have been living in hiding in Algiers for more than a year. What is your reaction to the recent semirelease of the two principal FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders?

[Messaoudi] For me, the FIS leaders started being freed after the death of [Higher State Council Chairman] Boudiaf on 29 June 1992. Those who assassinated Boudiaf now want to collude with the fundamentalists. The present rulers are quite simply in the process of negotiating the surrender of Algeria as a state and as a nation.

There have been 200,000 deaths in two years, 500 schools burned down, and $2 billion worth of damage, all in the interests of a precise aim. The government has been an accomplice to the violence to reduce the Algerians to such a state of despair that they will accept any solution. Notably to commit mass suicide in an Islamic Republic. This violence which is in the very air we breathe is being used to anesthetize the population.

Ever since Boudiaf was assassinated there has been an alliance between the government and the FIS Islamists. How else can you explain the fact that not a single member of the government has been threatened or had their property, factories, villas, destroyed or burned down?

[Khedoud] What kind of regime is Algeria headed for?

[Messaoudi] I believe that fundamentalism was born in the presidential dining rooms and in the ministries. It is not a popular movement. When oil revenue started to fall in 1987, the FLN [National Liberation Front], formerly the sole party, soon found a new ideology to accommodate fundamentalism. The FLN and FIS are in fact basically the same, both proposing a totalitarian system with no change of power.

[Khedoud] But you also supported the cessation of the democratic process.

[Messaoudi] I was in favor of stopping the elections, but how can you speak of a democratic process with more than 65 authorized parties? I concluded an agreement with the Army republicans to prevent the crooks and the Islamists from sharing power between them. Because what could be more practical than an Islamic Republic to silence workers' rights (the Algerian Government is about to shed 150,000 government jobs as part of an agreement with the IMF to reduce the debt—editor's note).

The Islamic State can be used as an instrument to eliminate all opposition. Violence and murder are already legitimized under the name of jihad.

What is certain is that we are first of all going to see a civil war between the Islamists. The armed Islamist leaders are going to fight among themselves for the leadership of the fundamentalist movement.

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The logic of power dictates that you must be among the first to share the "Algerian cake." This situation is very convenient to the present regime as a democratic government would immediately demand an explanation for the disastrous financial management. For all democrats, the surrender of Algeria is out of the question. We will resist.

FFS Explains Nonparticipation in Dialogue

LD2209161494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Excerpt] A meeting of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] national council was held this morning at the FFS headquarters. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Said Khelil, the acting secretary general and was attended by the members of the national council and the provincial executive committees and a number of invited guests. Here's [name indistinct] with a report.

[Correspondent] There were two major points on the agenda: the party's position on the political dialogue, which is currently going on in the country, and a study of the party's internal statutes. In his address, Mr. Said Khelil, the acting secretary general, touched on the current dialogue between the authorities and the parties and gave the reasons why the FFS had not participated in this dialogue.

[Begin Khelil recording] There are citizens, people in the press, who carry out analyses and ask why we did not participate. The FFS is a national party that adheres to democracy, a party that adheres to civil peace. In our view the dialogue cannot solve the country's crisis.

They say how could you not participate? We, as a responsible party, could not accept a dialogue when we were not convinced that it would be of use in solving the crisis. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Despite the fact that it did not participate in the dialogue, FFS participation in the future remains possible on certain conditions. Contacts are continuing between it and the authorities and other parties.

[Begin Khelil recording] We are still in contact and we still have a complete desire for dialogue. We are still in contact with the parties and the authorities and we hope that from this past experience we will learn lessons to start off on a dialogue on the basis of new conditions, of a preparatory stage, so that we can go to a conference where the effective forces are present. There we can at any rate consult and analyze a solution [as heard] to the country's crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Views Domestic Issues, Investments

NC2309092094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stressed that Egypt's high level of performance at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] adds to the assets of development and the huge achievements on Egypt's soil.

In the second part of his interview with AL-AHRAM, which the paper publishes today, President Mubarak said the United Nations organized the conference and started preparing for it five years ago and that over 20 countries offered to host it, many of them beginning contacts to ensure they would be chosen to host this important event. He added that Egypt was chosen among these 20 countries because it came first in the assessments of each country. He noted that the countries that offered to host the ICPD were not motivated by emotion, but by a desire to serve their interests, because the competitors realized that holding this important conference on their territory meant that the media would mention the host country daily.

Talking to AL-AHRAM's editor, Ibrahim Nafi', President Mubarak said: Do you know what one of the prominent wise leaders told me? He said: Had you spent over $1 billion on a media campaign to convince the world that Egypt is a hospitable country with highly qualified cadres, services, and infrastructure, you would not have convinced the millions of people around the world as you did by hosting the conference.

Touching on Egypt's relations with the World Bank, President Mubarak stressed that they are excellent and improving. He said: The bank's declaration last month that Egypt has carried out its reform program is the best testimony to our correct stance and wise policy. He noted that his recent talks with the bank's chairman were very constructive and fruitful.

On his talks in Cairo with U.S. Vice President Al Gore on the ICPD's sidelines, President Mubarak said the United States tops the list of our commercial partners and therefore it was natural for the talks with Gore to deal with developing bilateral economic cooperation, referring in this regard to the agreement with Gore to form a joint committee to help development in Egypt move toward increasing the efficiency of investments through the advanced technology of many U.S. companies. He said that Al Gore will visit Egypt at the end of this year after the committee has concluded its recommendations, results, and specific programs.

President Mubarak also dealt with local issues and stressed that the coming stage of internal action will witness radical and comprehensive development in every sector of production and services. He said he will soon announce good news about facilitating investments for small depositors and on boosting small projects for the young, including providing land, equipment, and marketing these projects' products.

President Mubarak stressed his backing for letting private capital set up new projects. He said: I believe we all saw the enthusiasm for investment in new projects, especially in Upper Egypt, as soon as I issued my directive that there would be no need for governmental approval for projects with a capital of up to 10 million pounds. He stressed that he is waiting for bureaucracy to perform and he is determined to remove all the obstacles that crop up.

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President Mubarak said he is happy with the citizens' enthusiasm for buying company shares. He said this enthusiasm represents, for citizens and the world, a declaration of their confidence in investments in Egyptian projects and assures them of the future of investments in Egypt. He added: If Arab and foreign capital seeks evidence of the Egyptians' confidence in investing in their country, then events in the share market are the best evidence. He noted that the shares offered for sale were five times oversubscribed in some cases and 10 times in others. He said: We will offer more shares and will continue to do so with regard to successful companies, so as to protect the citizens' savings and guarantee their investments.

Asked if there is a link between these developments and the international conference in Egypt next month on the role of the private sector in development, President Mubarak said: This conference will be held on Egypt's soil at the World Bank's initiative after its experts and studies confirmed that the Egyptian economy is restoring its strength and preparing for another leap.

He added: I agreed to have the conference held under my sponsorship and I asked the government that officials should attend every session and that the results and recommendations be submitted to me so that we can take from them anything that boosts the process of progress and development.

He stressed that staging the conference in Egypt will be an opportunity for us to present our experience to the country's guests, for the Egyptian private sector to present its assessment of the investment experience in Egypt, and for hearing other views on rights and commitment to society.

Discussing Egypt's exports and the hurdles facing them, President Mubarak stressed that the next stage must see a tangible increase in our export of commodities and services, especially in view of the visible increase in our productive capabilities in agriculture, industry, tourism, and petrol in addition to increased banking, insurance, and port facilities. He said: A few years ago we complained of shortages in the production of cotton, rice, vegetables, and fruits. Today we hear complaints about a surplus of these commodities exceeding the needs of the local markets. The same goes for industry and hotel vacancies. He said that every phase has its own circumstances. Now that we are out of the bottleneck and projects are on the increase, our main problem lies in keeping these investments going by maintaining the ability to sell their products on international markets.

President Mubarak emphasized that signs of success have begun to appear, noting that our exports of commodities other than petrol during the first quarter of this year have gone up 14 percent on the same period last year. They are expected to increase during the second quarter as old relations between the Egyptian cotton market and exporters are returning and strengthening. He said our export of clothes to U.S. markets has visibly increased. He noted that the Egyptian contracting companies, which acquired international experience in implementing utility projects in Egypt, have signed contracts to implement projects in foreign markets totalling 2.2 billion pounds.

Asked about reports that the recent visit to Egypt by the IMF president was intended to discuss devaluing the Egyptian pound, President Mubarak said that devaluation is out of the question, that the issue is no longer the subject of discussion, and that the exchange rate is determined by the markets.

Discussing national dialogue, President Mubarak said: I give this issue my special attention and my call for dialogue was my own initiative; it was not imposed by circumstances. He said there was no crisis or impasse behind this call, only a certain desire for the interaction of views among political, intellectual, scientific, cultural, and literary forces as well as all federations, professional associations, labor organizations, and parliamentary bodies to initiate a political, economic, scientific, and social dialogue to chart Egypt's course as it edges toward a new century.

Mubarak went on to say: Out of this comes my interest in the results reached by the committees of the national dialogue conference and putting forward the comprehensive recommendations of the conference's economic, political, and social committees to the state institutions to serve as a guide in charting policy in every sector of national action. These recommendations deal with every sector of national action, he said, adding that several recommendations called for making specialized studies of these proposals. He pointed out that all the recommendations will be studied to see if some of them need new legislation or the amendment of particular laws. Legislation or amendments may require presidential decrees, government decision-making, or approval by governors or local administrations. He stressed that he is interested in all the recommendations as long as they are consistent with the interests of the homeland and the people. He noted that he will follow up on these recommendations in the next few months. He stressed that 1995 will see the implementation of many of these recommendations.

Asked about elections and candidates' participation, on lists or as individuals, President Mubarak said: I had no advance view on this issue. The national dialogue emerged with the views of the participating forces on the method of electing candidates on lists. Other views were raised with some supporting this method and others opposing it. This is positive and healthy. He stressed that he has no personal interest in imposing a particular electoral system.

Asked about the Egyptian opposition parties, President Mubarak stressed that they are partners and part of the regime and therefore their own and their sons' interests lie in keeping Egypt strong. He called on these parties and their press to refrain from publishing erroneous reports and to verify hearsay to avoid misinforming the people. He stressed that the Egyptian people are enlightened and can tell right from wrong. He said the people's trust can be won by safeguarding our homeland.

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Musa Meets U.S. Officials, Views Peace Prospects

NC2309085394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Washington, 23 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a round of talks here last night with Anthony Lake, the U.S. President's adviser on national security affairs. The talks dealt with developments in the peace process and coordination of Egyptian and U.S. efforts to achieve progress, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, so as to reach a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region.

Minister Musa earlier met with Vice President Al Gore and discussed with him a number of regional issues, bilateral relations, and the means of developing these relations in all fields. [passage omitted]

Minister Musa said he expects the current efforts to boost the peace process to achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks quite soon.

Speaking before the Arab-U.S. Institute in Washington, the Egyptian foreign minister said that progress on the Syrian track is possible and not much time will pass before progress toward reaching an agreement between Syria and Israel is achieved. He added that Israel's resistance to full withdrawal from the Golan is futile because "land for peace" is the right formula for achieving a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region.

He noted that the Israeli Government has repeatedly declared that it has no territorial ambitions in Lebanon. He said there is thus a basis for also achieving progress on the Lebanese track in the near future. But he stressed that achieving the necessary progress requires continued efforts toward this objective. He also stressed that Egypt is discussing all issues from all angles with the Arab parties, Israel, and the U.S. Administration and is doing so as its contribution to the efforts and out of a realization of the importance of continuing them.

'Amr Musa referred in his speech to the current great changes in the Middle East region. He said these changes raise many questions about the region's near- and long-term future. He said: We as Egyptians and Arabs should not be afraid of the new economic facts in the region. He added: As far as Egypt is concerned, it is ready to face these facts because this would be in line with international economic conditions, current transformations, and future expectations. But, he added, I am keen to stress in this respect the importance of achieving progress toward a settlement between Syria and Israel. He said that the need to sign an agreement between Syria and Israel must be insisted on and that the "land for peace" formula should be the basis for this. He also stressed that the needed economic cooperation in the region requires tackling security issues, noting in particular the importance of having all parties in the region without exception forsake weapons of mass destruction.

Libya

Deportation of Palestinians Said Considered

JN2309102994 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 24-30 Sep 94 p 14

[Unattributed article]

[Excerpt] Has al-Qadhdhafi concocted a plan to assassinate 'Arafat?

Is there a Palestinian-Libyan crisis?

What are the causes of this crisis?

Political sources, as well as reports from Tripoli, indicate that there is such a crisis. For the Libyan authorities have halted the renewal of Palestinian teachers' contracts as of the beginning of the current school year and teachers whose contracts expire while they are outside Libya are not allowed to return to Libya. Those still in Libya have been asked to leave after receiving all their remunerations.

The news reports from Tripoli have confirmed that Tripoli is currently considering measures to deport 30,000 Palestinians from Libya.

Informed sources told SHIHAN that the Libyan measures regarding deportation and the nonrenewal of contracts came in the wake of remarks Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi made in his 1 September revolution anniversary speech in the course of his comments on the Arab-Israeli peace process, which he termed as "capitulation." In this speech, al-Qadhdhafi strongly criticized the Palestinian Authority for accepting autonomy, on which he cast aspersions, saying: If Gaza and Jericho have really achieved independence, we must repatriate to them 30,000 Palestinians currently in Libya, whom we hosted in the past because they were homeless. In the same vein, we must ask the other Arab states to follow suit.

The informed sources also said that the Libyan leader's statements, and his proposal for deporting the Palestinians did not come out of the blue. Rather, these remarks were made after the intelligence service of an Arab state informed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of the full details of a plan to assassinate him. The names of the two men assigned this task were also revealed to 'Arafat.

The story has it that leader al-Qadhdhafi had planned to assassinate 'Arafat. To achieve this purpose, he struck an agreement with two Palestinians, one of whom was affiliated with the Islamic front [as published], while the second was affiliated with the Fatah Movement. The two Palestinians were paid $3 million to assassinate 'Arafat. The two Palestinians returned to the self-rule areas with the approval of the Palestinian self-rule authority's security forces, and the endorsement of the Israeli authorities. Having arrived there, they were surprised by a summons sent to them by President 'Arafat. They wondered what could be the reason for President 'Arafat's summons. The receptionist at 'Arafat's office informed them that President 'Arafat had chosen them to be cadres in the Palestinian Authority. Their initial reaction was amazement.

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But, later President 'Arafat reassured them personally. They then felt that the president could punish them harshly and so they revealed the entire scheme and confessed to him all that had been agreed with leader al-Qadhdhafi. They were surprised by the fact that the president was aware of all the details of this scheme. Consequently, they asked for forgiveness, which was granted them. They were later assigned as cadres within the Palestinian Authority.

In an urgent cable sent by unidentified sources, the Libyan leader was informed that the assassination plan failed, that the two men assigned the task of carrying out the assassination plan had been contained, and that they currently work for the Palestinian Authority. This development provoked al-Qadhdhafi, and prompted him to propose the deportation of some 30,000 Palestinians from Libya. The move not to renew the contracts of Palestinian teachers and employees was part of this deportation policy.

Palestinian sources in Amman and the self-rule areas have neither confirmed nor denied these reports. They said only that they had not been notified of any such measures by the Libyan authorities.

Political sources said that the new move announced by leader al- Qadhdhafi might have been prompted by the pressures suffered by Libya due to the enforcement of the international sanctions since April 1992. They added that Libya has started a program of cutting back on the size of its Arab and foreign work force. [passage omitted]

Officer's Arrest Linked to al-Qadhdhafi-Jallud Rift

NC2309064194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Arab political sources have been cited as saying that Libyan authorities last week arrested Major 'Umar al-Hariri, one of the most prominent free unionist officers in Libya. These sources linked the arrest of al-Harari to the escalating differences between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. As a result of these differences Maj. Jallud's passport has been withdrawn and he has been placed under what looks like semi-house arrest.

Thai Delegation Departs Following Visit

LD2209135194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Libya and Thailand signed an agreement on economic, trade, monetary, and scientific cooperation this morning. The agreement was signed by the undersecretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and Thailand's deputy foreign minister.

Thailand's deputy foreign minister, in a statement to JANA after signing the agreement, praised the civilized achievements in various fields by the Libyan people as a result of the al-Fatih revolution. He stated that his country is working to find a [word indistinct] and just solution for the so-called Lockerbie issue. The Thai official and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

King Hassan Meets With U.S. Envoy Ross

LD2209215094 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at the royal palace in Skhiret today Mr. Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for Near East Affairs at the U.S. State Department, who was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador in Rabat Marc Ginsberg. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali and Andre Azoulay, his majesty's adviser for economic and financial affairs, Mr. Ross conveyed to his majesty a message from President Clinton on the economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa to take place in Casablanca and the general situation in the region.

In this respect, Mr. Ross briefed his majesty on his tour, which took him and his accompanying delegation to Syria, Israel, and Gaza. Concerning the Casablanca conference, his majesty pointed out that such a conference was the first of its kind and would bring government officials, businessmen, and investors together. His majesty also reiterated that the conference should find the best possible balance between political requirements and economic and financial priorities, which are the main topic of this conference.

On his part, Mr. Ross described the Casablanca conference as a historical turning point for the future of the Middle East and North Africa and reiterated the U.S. Administration's determination that the conference should be successful.

Rights Minister Cited on Human Rights Tasks

LD2209145994 Rabat MAP in English 1354 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep 22 (MAP)—One of the tasks entrusted to the Moroccan Human Rights Ministry is "to end the isolation of the human rights issues, open them onto everybody and reach an ideal that is beyond differences and political divergencies", said Moroccan Minister of Human Rights Omar Azziman.

In an interview with the Casablanca-based 'LA VIE ECONOMIQUE' weekly, the minister stressed the need to make of the respect of human rights a necessity placed beyond all partisan considerations and to overcome some attitudes. The respect of human rights is everybody's concern, he added.

To a question on the setting up of a human rights observatory in Morocco, the minister said this issue is being seriously considered and Morocco is closely watching experience of countries where human rights' principles are well

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anchored and observed. We are finding out how institutions checking and protecting human rights practices are functioning in these countries to endow Morocco with similar implements and associate the civil society.

Azziman pointed out that the royal pardon to 424 detainees is a major turning point. However, he said, reserves expressed by some detainees who or whose relatives were not included in the royal pardon are being studied by the Human Rights and the Justice Ministries. The two departments are trying to find out whether some of them should have benefited from the sovereign's move meant to definitively turn the page of human rights.

On the issue of those reported missing, the minister said his department is collecting all information available at Moroccan human rights associations and foreign non-governmental organizations to find out whether the reported missing cases are real. "Each time there was an arbitrary arrest or imprisonment, we never hesitated to recognize it as we have always considered illegal detention as a serious human rights breach requiring a compensation", he explained.

When asked about Morocco's non-ratification of the annex to the international pact on civil and political rights, Azziman answered that much work remains to be done to harmonize national law with international implements. We should overcome the restrictive approach to human rights as Morocco still has to work out and implement programs to combat poverty, ignorance, illiteracy, unemployment and all other plagues that harm human dignity and hinder development.

On the detention situation in Morocco, the minister said his department is endeavoring to set forth a program with the cooperation of the European Union to improve the situation of inmates and the Ministry of Justice has submitted this problem to a ministerial commission.

Algerian Intelligence Said Behind 'Destabilization'

LD2209141194 Rabat MAP in English 1400 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 22 (MAP)—Moroccan "AL ITTIHAD AL ICHTIRAKI" accused Wednesday Algerian Chief of Staff and Head of the Intelligence Services General Mohamed Lamari of being the instigator of the anti-Moroccan destabilization plan. The daily charges that it was him who organized the introduction of armed individuals into Morocco to perpetrate terrorist acts.

A front page story published by the daily illustrated by a picture of Gen. Lamari recalls that after a first foiled attempt, Algerian intelligence services hired young Maghrebans living in France (Moroccans and Algerians) to make belief that groups of opponent extremists living in France are behind the terrorism and sabotage acts committed or planned in Morocco.

This destabilization plan, said the daily of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-leftist opposition), is explained by the Algerian refusal of any settlement plan to the Sahara issue, especially by a group within the Algerian army, called 'Tindouf colonels' which are supporting the secessionists.

According to the daily, the plan is also motivated by an Algerian desire to export to Morocco the political violence wave sweeping Algeria in a bid to alleviate U.S and European pressures to talk Algerian authorities into negotiating with the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front.

The daily concludes that its thesis does not mean that the Algerian services of military security are acting on orders from the presidency or the government, for in Algeria power actually lies in the hands of services of the military security.

Sudan

SPLM Leader on Failed Talks, Garang's Claims

AB2209185994 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 22 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Recriminations have been flying thick and fast over the collapse of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development]-sponsored Sudan peace talks in Nairobi last week. The Khartoum government and the IGADD presidents have blamed each other for the failure. War is in the wind again in southern Sudan, and the rifts between the different rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] factions seem to have deepened. Yesterday, John Garang accused the factions of Riak Machar, Lam Akol, and William Nyuon of being in cahoots with Khartoum and specifically claimed that Riak Machar was receiving military support from the Sudan Government to fight the Garang wing of the SPLA. Dan Isaacs talked to Riak Machar and asked him for us if there was any chance of reconvening the peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Machar] Well, that depends on the IGADD mediators. The IGADD mediators said the IGADD-mediated peace talks have reached a deadlock; they didn't say the talks have failed. So, they think there is still a chance for the peace talks to be revived.

[Isaacs] Now, we spoke to Dr. Garang, who had some fairly hostile words to say against you and your relations with the Sudan Government. He suggested that you were working in collusion with the government against his forces.

[Machar] My forces for the last one week have been fighting Sudan Government convoy on the River Bahr al Ghazal, east of Bentiu Town, and I don't know what collusion John Garang is talking about.

[Isaacs] Dr. Garang is fairly specific. He says that both you and Lam Akol have been doing deals and receiving weapons supplies from the government to fight against his forces.

[Machar] There are no weapons in the SPLA-United that were received by me nor by Lam Akol to fight forces of John Garang.

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[Isaacs] It seems that with Dr. Garang saying such things against you and your people that reconciliation between you and Dr. Garang would be extremely difficult at this stage.

[Machar] Well, the position of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-United is for reconciliation of the two factions of the movement, because we can't win the war if we are fighting each other.

[Isaacs] So, do you plan to talk to Dr. Garang directly and ask him what evidence he has for these accusations of your collusion with the Sudan Government?

[Machar] Yes, if he would avail himself. Definitely, yes, I would ask such question.

[Isaacs] So, what is the next stage now? You are returning to southern Sudan, are expecting an increased government onslaught on southern Sudan? Are you making preparations?

[Machar] Yes, we are definitely doing that. The government has broken its own cease-fire, and attacking our position, and we must defend ourselves. [end recording]

Al-Turabi Role in Algerian Events Questioned

NC2209154394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi': "Al-Turabi; Searching for a Role"]

[Excerpts] When Sudan was being hit by one of its worst natural disasters in the past 50 years, with deadly floods in the Northern Province, the Nile River Province, the Northern Kordofan Province, and Southern Darfur Province, a disaster that, according to Sudanese Government estimates caused damage of around 260 million Sudanese pounds, [Sudanese Islamic Front leader] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi was busy thinking of other issues that he found more serious and important than those afflicting his own country.

On Friday Omdurman state radio broadcast a dialogue with al-Turabi that was almost entirely devoted to current events in Algeria. Al-Turabi emphasized that Sudan was "behind the recent rapprochement" between the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the Algerian Government. Al-Turabi talked at length about the "efforts" exerted and the direct and indirect contacts held with the two Algerian sides by himself, the Arab-Islamic Popular Conference (the shadow government in Khartoum), which he chairs, and Lieutenant General al-Bashir. The popular conference issued a statement stressing that this step "could give the Islamists in Algeria the right to run the country."

Regardless of the validity of this claim the issue seemed quite odd. The Sudanese Government left the problem of the failure of its negotiations with the southerners a few days ago, the acute tensions with the United States over "evidence of supporting terrorism," the disturbances in some Sudanese areas, and the floods that devastated several Sudanese provinces to focus on proving imaginary things about an Algerian problem. A few days ago Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri was asked if the release of the FIS leaders had followed mediation by some Arab states. He said that he had no information in this regard. Al-Turabi's recent remarks bragging about the issue were strongly denied by an official Algerian spokesman. [passage omitted]

It seems a particular role has been occupying the mind of al-Turabi for some time, something that is quite strange in light of the negative image that the Islamic National Front's recent practices have created. It seems that al-Turabi wants to use the close relations he has established with the groups and elements of violence and terrorism in the region and in some areas in a manner that is different from the manner adopted before. He is offering himself as someone who could help "contain" acts of violence and terrorism and adapt some of his groups to suit the desires of some Western states in his capacity as a "liaison officer" with these groups. The most recent example of this is the impression the Sudanese Government tried to create in connection with the Carlos affair. Naturally al-Turabi could not let the opportunity of Algeria's events pass without attempting—despite Sudan's floods—to remind people of his imaginative role. Perhaps this could shed some light on what happened to U.S. ambassador to Sudan Donald Peterson a few days ago.

Within the framework of al-Turabi's policy the Sudanese Government asked for "evidence" from those who accuse it of abetting terrorism. This prompted the U.S. Government to submit through its ambassador specific information described as "private and secret" to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry about a particular camp (as a mere example) used to train non-Sudanese terrorists. Whereas this surprised the Sudanese Government, because it deeply undermined the role it imagined it had been playing, the Sudanese reaction was violent. According to U.S. official sources, the Sudanese media hurled curses and insults at the U.S. ambassador after this information was conveyed from the Sudanese Foreign Ministry to the Islamic National Front. Before that there was a belief that Sudan could seize some opportunities to embellish its policies but this did not happen.

Playing an influential political role abroad is not easy. It requires political capabilities and balanced tendencies. But the Sudanese political system is not giving the Sudanese Government this capability under the circumstances. How can a state play a "role" when its president cannot control his official departments? This happened when Lieutenant General al-Bashir promised to stop the media campaign against Egypt during his visit to Libya. A few hours after his statement Omdurman radio unleashed a direct attack on the Egyptian leadership in a deliberate attempt to blow up his promises.

Sudan claims that it has played a serious and influential role in the Algerian problem. What is dangerous is that there is no clear division in the mind of the ruling Islamic National Front in Sudan between playing a role and interfering with the internal affairs of other states. The Sudanese

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"contacts" that were "behind the rapprochement" were tantamount to intervention in Algeria's domestic affairs. These contacts, if they ever took place, were not good offices or mediation or something of this sort but were moves by a party to support the stance of "an opposition group" in an attempt to boost the chances of its accession to power without paying heed to Algeria's stability or instability. The attempt by al-Turabi and his ruling clique to give the impression that they are playing a particular "role" is a naive ruse to legitimize unacceptable and unlawful behavior. This clearly explains Algeria's rejection and denial of the Sudanese claims at their very foundation.

What will al-Turabi say after this clear denial of all his games, lies, and claims about his serious and influential "roles" in the problems of the region?

Government Official Welcomes U.S. Envoy's Mission

JN2209141194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 21

[Report by Amjad Mu'alla]

[Excerpts] A ranking Sudanese official has said the Sudanese Government is still waiting for the reply to the proposal it presented at the Nairobi summit on activating the peace negotiations aimed to find a permanent solution to the differences with the secessionist rebels in southern Sudan.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR yesterday, Dr. Abu-Bakr Yasin al-Shanqiti, secretary general of the Foreign Press Council in Sudan, said the Nairobi summit, which was held last Monday [September 19], did not reach any positive results. [passage omitted]

On the U.S. efforts aimed to bridge the gap between views of various parties in Sudan, represented in appointing an envoy whose task is to meet with these parties, Dr. al-Shanqiti said: Sudan welcomes any initiative aimed to advance dialogue and negotiations on the right track.

He added: Based on this, we welcome the U.S. efforts. He added that the U.S. envoy has recently met with various parties and heard their views. He also said that there are clear signs that the U.S. envoy realized success in her mission. This success is represented in the absence of statements similar to the ones the rebels used to make. It is also represented in the fact that dialogue with them has begun to take on an objective trend. He said that this is seen as progress. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

OAU To Observe Voter Identification

LD2209140194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The Organization of African Unity [OAU] will be present during the process of determining the identity of Saharan voters. Erik Jensen, deputy head of the UN mission in the Western Sahara, confirmed that two OAU observers, one from Zaire and the other from South Africa, will take part in the self-determination referendum which the United Nations intends to organize on 14 February next year. Over to Louisa Hadj Mousa:

[Hadj Mousa] Erik Jensen confirmed that the two observers have been appointed by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his capacity as current OAU chairman. The Zairian observer will attend the operation to determine identities in the Laayoune camps in the occupied territories, while the South African observer will follow up the operation in the camps for Saharan refugees in the liberated territories.

It is to be recalled that the Moroccan authorities have constantly rejected the presence of OAU observers since the beginning of the peace process in the Western Sahara, because of the OAU's acceptance of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic as a member. This Moroccan position was behind the hold-up in beginning the process of determining the identity of Saharan voters which was due to begin at the beginning of last July. The process, which began on 18 August and was due to have resumed yesterday in Laayoune, was postponed for technical reasons.

Sources close to the UN mission announced that the two OAU observers have left the organization [as heard] because of commitments abroad.

It is to be recalled that Morocco withdrew from the OAU in 1984 after the organization accepted the Western Sahara as a member.

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Kuwait

Minister Meets British Oil Industry Officials

LD2209200794 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj and his accompanying delegation resumed talks in London today with British oil industry officials. His two-day visit to Britain consisted of several meetings with British officials in the oil industry. This visit came in response to an invitation by British Energy Minister Tim Eggar to meet British officials in the energy and trade sector.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Could you tell us about your visit today to the British Petroleum Company?

[Mid'aj] It was also in response to an invitation by the board chairman of the British Petroleum Company. We accepted this invitation, and a study was presented to us on that issue. A presentation was made on the company's projects, its capabilities, and international participation in the oil sector.

We are happy to be with this company. We have been linked to it since 1911, then in 1934, and until that company was bought by the Kuwaiti Government in 1975. It returned to us once more in 1992. In fact, we are now working with them to develop the Kuwaiti oil fields.

[Correspondent] What about the future of new projects in the oil sector in Kuwait?

[Mid'aj] There are many projects, and as we are an oil-producing country, our oil projects will never stop. We will exert efforts to develop the oil sector in the country with the help of competent youths in whom one has pride and who are present in Kuwait in the oil sector. [end recording]

At the end of the visit, there was a working lunch at the company for the Kuwaiti delegation and the company's board members. The oil minister's visit to Britain ended with his meeting at the British Petroleum Company. He will begin a visit tomorrow to Holland.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Praises Security Situation

LD2209142894 Riyadh SPA in English 1301 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 22, SPA—Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the minister of interior, has expressed delight over the full security and stability being enjoyed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and vowed that nothing would be allowed to disturb the security of citizens and residents, their blood, honour and money.

Prince Nayif, who is also the chairman of board of director of the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre in Riyadh (ASSTC), made the remarks after he patronized a commencement held by the centre on Wednesday night. He highlighted the 64th anniversary Of the national day on Friday.

Prince Nayif smashed the hostile and malicious campaign being waged by some Western media on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its faith and said the sources of such reports are well known and the Saudi concerned authorities would decide whether anything of such hostile positions needs clarification.

Prince Nayif, who is also the honorary chairman of board of directors of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, expressed satisfaction of the performance of the Tunis-based council and expressed confidence that the Arab ministers of interior would do every possible effort to reinforce the important role of the council.

Replying to a question on the role of the Arab media for combat of crime and drugs, Prince Nayif said he is not satisfied with such role and urged the Saudi and other Arab mass media means to undertake a more effective role in that context.

Speaking on some interior issues, Prince Nayif said traffic officials are finalizing a new system to lessen plate's figures of vehicles in the kingdom. Concerning the press corporations, he said the Information Council, which he chairs, is about to finalize studies on the organizational project. He called on for closer and fruitful cooperation between the security personnel, bodies and citizens of the kingdom.

Yemen

Basindwah on Reconciliation With Gulf States

NC2309093394 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 9

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Salim Basindwah by Amani al-Tawil in Cairo "on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' meetings at the Arab League Headquarters"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Tawil] Are there any practical steps toward Yemeni-Gulf reconciliation?

[Basindwah] Reconciliation with the Gulf countries is an objective sought by Yemeni diplomacy. I have worked since I became foreign minister to eliminate all the causes of dispute and remove the remains of the past, because the Gulf states are fraternal and neighboring countries. I am not saying a great improvement has taken place but we can say that what happened during the Yemeni crisis is enough for the brothers in the Gulf countries to review their stances and consider what has happened as enough, especially as they criticized Yemen's positions during the Gulf war.

[Al-Tawil] Are there not reports of Egyptian mediation?

[Basindwah] We welcome the mediation of brothers, especially Egypt. But the success of the mediation depends on the two sides' response and their acceptance of the mediator.

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[Al-Tawil] The Nasirists supported legitimacy and backed unity in every stage of the conflict and war. Are they expected to be included in the next government and has a dialogue started?

[Basindwah] Participation in the government under a democratic and pluralistic regime is up to the party that wins the majority and if it thinks it needs to include other parties. The government used to include three parties: The General People's Congress [GPC], the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. There are still YSP members in the government but they have opted to stay away from it because they felt that the party committed a grave historic mistake, if not a crime. The victory of Yemen's unity strengthens the need for national accord, which in turn boosts this unity.

[Al-Tawil] Within this context do you expect the YSP and the Nasirists to be included to maintain plurality?

[Basindwah] It is difficult to expect others from outside the GPC, the YRG, and independents to participate right now. I ask you: If all the parties participate, who will form the opposition? The democratic system means that there must be a government and an opposition. So if all the parties participate in the government, who will draw attention to the mistakes when they occur or to negative developments that must be rectified?

Minister on Weapons Repatriated From Oman

NC2209065094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi in Sanaa by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Lawzi] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] It has been repeatedly stated that a new government would be announced in Yemen, but so far nothing has come up. Why?

[Al-Lawzi] There were two options regarding the formation of a new government following the great victory achieved by the people and their Armed Forces on 7 July to consolidate unity and strengthen the free democratic policy line of Yemen. The first option was to aim at forming a new government to rebuild what was destroyed by the separatist rebels and put the house in order in a way that serves the principles declared by the state and the political leadership. By these principles I am referring to political and economic freedoms, the establishment of local government and local administration, and the handling of all the state's affairs. This option needed certain requirements in terms of the supreme rules organizing the state's affairs, relations within the state's institutions, and the state's relations with the society, and by this I mean the Constitution. Most of the political organizations that contested the free and democratic elections for the legislature on 27 April 1993 had underlined the need to draft a new Constitution that emphasizes the people's firm principles and rights and defines the political, economic, cultural, and social foundations on which the state is built and to which the society is committed. Such a Constitution had to take into account the advances made in democracy and commitment to economic freedom and market economy, the multiplicity of society, and the peaceful hand-over of power. The second option was to begin constitutional reforms and then form a new government accordingly. This required the initiation of a dialogue to create a government that includes patriotic and technically qualified people who are specialists in the domains needed by the country at present. Because conditions in the country are stable and reassuring, the second option was pursued; that is, not to hurry in forming a new government, to introduce constitutional amendments, and to give ample time to discussion of these amendments by the legislature, which is duly authorized to introduce these amendments. As you know, during the current session the brothers in the House of Representatives are in the process of examining, debating, and phrasing the necessary amendments that suit the modern policies of the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Majd] Following the war in Yemen, many weapons were taken out of the country. You held talks and contacts to repatriate them as well as officers and soldiers. How far have these contacts gone?

[Al-Lawzi] We praise and thank God that the brothers in the Sultanate of Oman had a sense of responsibility to realize the need to consolidate bilateral relations to serve mutual interests. They returned all the weapons, aircraft, and equipment that belong to the Republic of Yemen which the separatist rebels had sneaked out of the country. I believe that this gives a positive example of inter-Arab relations and the need to deal in a responsible way with the legitimate government of a certain state when it comes to a domestic affair related to this state. We hope this model will be emulated by the other states to which some types of weapons have been smuggled.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Minister al-Lawzi.

[Al-Lawzi] Thank you very much.

Last of Military Hardware Returned From Oman

JN2209114494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Four ships belonging to the Yemeni Armed Forces arrived at the port of al-Mukalla in eastern Yemen yesterday. They represent the last batch of the military hardware returned to Yemen from the Sultanate of Oman.

The returned naval vessels, which carried a number of Yemeni officers and soldiers, include a landing craft, a mine sweeper, and two missile boats. The secessionists in southern Yemen smuggled large numbers of vehicles and military hardware, including fighter planes and warships, into several neighboring states as their rebellion collapsed on 7 July. Most of these vehicles and military hardware were returned to Yemen.

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Foreign Minister Discusses Azerbaijani Ties

JN2209161494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has received visiting Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev and his delegation.

The foreign minister expressed Iraq's desire to promote relations between the two countries in all fields, noting that these relations are based on a joint historical and cultural background.

Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Elchin Efendiyev expressed his admiration of the Iraqi people's reconstruction accomplishments. Commending the Iraqi people's patience, he stressed his country's faith in the need to promote bilateral relations with Iraq in cultural and other fields for the common benefit of the two friendly countries and peoples in a manner reflecting the deep and strong historical ties between them.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on various issues of common interest and ways of boosting understanding between the two friendly peoples.

French Official on Meeting With Saddam

JN2209125994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—A senior French official has said that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn yielded positive results that will enhance French-Iraqi relations.

In a dialogue held at the AL-JUMHURIYAH center for international studies, General Jeannou Lacasse, member of the European Parliament and former chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, said that when President Saddam Husayn received him, he sensed his excellency's firm resolve to lead Iraq toward a bright future.

Gen. Lacasse, who is also an adviser at the French Ministry of Defense, added that he talked with President Saddam Husayn about the past, present, and future of Iraqi-French relations and about what France will do to promote Iraq's economy. Touching on Iraq's history and impact in the international arena, Lacasse said: Iraq is a great regional power because it has abundant material capabilities and a very important geographical position that entitles it to play an effective role in international politics within the framework of organizing and enhancing common interests. He asserted that there are many currents in France which believe that Iraq is a considerable regional power in view of its huge economic capabilities.

The French official asserted that his country is serious in its efforts to lift the multifaceted embargo imposed on Iraq and that it is doing its best to end the Iraqi people's suffering due to this embargo. He said his mission and that of the accompanying delegation, which includes current and former parliamentarians, is to prepare a detailed report that will be submitted to the French officials. The report will explain the Iraqi people's suffering due to the continued blockade imposed by the United States. In light of this report, France will determine future actions.

Discussing French-Iraqi economic and trade relations, Gen. Lacasse said: French firms worked in Iraq before and during the Iraq-Iran war. These firms know well how to deal with the Iraqi enterprises. They are now trying to prepare and conclude specific future contracts after the blockade is lifted, in addition to considering France's contribution to the reconstruction of Iraq.

National Assembly Delegation Returns From Denmark

JN2209120394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—A National Assembly delegation led by Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz has returned to Baghdad after participating in the Interparliamentary Union's 92d conference, which concluded in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, recently.

In a statement to INA, 'Aziz said the delegation submitted a working paper dealing with the serious repercussions of the continued unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, which has caused food and medicine shortages. He added that the Iraqi viewpoint enjoyed profound interest and appreciation due to Iraq's position and great cooperation with regard to implementing the Security Council resolutions as a prelude to lifting the unfair blockade.

Parliamentary and political issues as well as woman's rights and organizational affairs were discussed in this conference.

IAEA Asked To Submit Report on Ending Embargo

JN2309083894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Vienna, 22 Sep (INA)—Iraq has affirmed at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] General Conference currently convening in Vienna that it has fulfilled all its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 687 in spite of the injustice that is befalling the Iraqi people from the effects of the embargo.

In his address to the General Conference's 38th ordinary session, the head of the Iraqi delegation said that Iraq's cooperation with the IAEA has enabled the latter to carry out its tasks in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions in a timely manner.

The head of the Iraqi delegation said that in light of Iraq's full abidance by its obligations, Iraq calls on the IAEA to expeditiously submit its final report to the UN Security Council on the tasks entrusted to it to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, as dictated by its technical and legal obligations and far from any political pressure that might be brought to bear against it.

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The Iraqi official outlined Iraq's cooperation and the facilities it has offered to render the IAEA's missions a success. He said that 36 nuclear inspection teams have visited Iraq so far, with a total number of 533 inspectors from 35 countries, who have spent a total of 241 days of inspections during which they paid 634 visits, 61 of which were surprise visits and 210 of which were visits to locations that had nothing to do with the nuclear program.

The Iraqi delegation head also cited the IAEA director general's statements on many occasions on the continued cooperation between the Iraqi authorities and the IAEA, which enabled the latter to complete the tasks the UN Security Council [words indistinct] in this respect.

The Iraqi official also referred in his address to the inspection teams' reports on Iraq's serious and important cooperation with these teams since early 1992, which helped them to carry out their duties.

Iraq also called for reinstating it as a member of The Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons [NPT] and allowing it to resume peaceful nuclear activities under the treaty and the safeguards system. Iraq said the IAEA must ask the UN Security Council for this after Iraq has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with Resolution 707.

Iraq also called on the IAEA to ensure that Iraq receives medical isotopes for diagnosis and medical treatment purposes under a mechanism that is less complicated than the present one so that it may make them available to needy patients expeditiously and without mistakes.

On steps to establish a zone that will be free from weapons of mass destruction in the Arab region, the head of the Iraqi delegation said the time is ripe for the IAEA and the quarters concerned to take serious steps to realize this objective and urge all parties in the region to join the NPT and accept the IAEA safeguards.

In this respect, Iraq warned against continued instability in the region that will make it a hotbed of perennial conflicts that do not serve world peace and security if all the Zionist nuclear facilities are not subordinated to the IAEA's safety controls and the region is not freed from weapons of mass destruction.

Kuwaiti Approval of Fact-Finding Committee Denied

JN2209113094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman—A diplomatic source at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman has denied that Kuwait has agreed on the formation of a fact- finding committee regarding the POW's issue. He said Kuwait has previously rejected several proposals made by Arab and international parties in this regard. They include a proposal made during the European Parliament's recent meetings when the Iraqi delegation's head said he was ready to immediately meet with the Kuwaiti parliamentarians attending these meetings.

Moreover, a proposal made by the Iraqi National Assembly speaker was also rejected. This proposal called for holding a joint meeting with the Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker to discuss all issues, including the POW's issue. Several similar proposals made by Qatar and Oman were also rejected.

The source stressed Iraq's readiness to hold direct meetings with the Kuwaitis, or through an Arab delegation, in order to discuss not only the POW's issue but also the borders and all other outstanding issues.

RCC Decree Pensions Arab Non-State Employees

JN2209110494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 94

["Text" of Revolution Command Council Decree No.159]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

The Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 159

Date of Decree: 9 Rabi' al-Thani 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 14 September 1994

Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

1. Arab citizens, who are not state employees, and as such are are not entitled to pension rights, and who were martyred or became permanently disabled as a result of the aggressive war during the Mother of Battles, shall be covered by the provisions of RCC Decree No. 478 of 21 April 1981.

2. This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall be retroactive to 2 August 1990.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

It is worth mentioning that RCC Decree No. 478 of 21 April 1981 allocates a pension for the family of the Iraqi citizen who is not a state employee, and as such is not entitled to pension rights, and who was martyred or became permanently disabled as a result of the war which was launched by the Persian regime against Iraq. The pension shall be equal to the minimum pension defined in the Amended Workers Pension and Social Security Law No. 39 of 1971.

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Rabin: Golan Hunger Strike Could Lead to Anarchy

TA2309073594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin criticized the form of protest adopted by the Golan settlers against a withdrawal and cautioned that their hunger strike could lead to anarchy. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports on the prime minister's comments about the hunger strikers during a visit to the Armored Corps exhibition in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Ro'e] Minutes before getting into his limousine and leaving Malkhey Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv, one of the prime minister's escorts heaved a sigh of relief and said: We thought it would be much worse. Indeed, except for a few people who shouted at him not to withdraw from the Golan, Rabin was mostly greeted with warmth and affection. In a totally out-of-character act, he even climbed on a tank and posed for photographs with dozens of children to the chagrin of his security guards who, to put it mildly, did not like the stunt.

After viewing the exhibition stands and revealing impressive knowledge about the weapons, Rabin spoke to reporters. Asked to comment about the hunger strike in Gamla, he replied:

[Rabin] Israel is a democratic state. The right to demonstrate and to voice one's opinions are totally acceptable to me, and that is why I proposed—and I abide by my proposal—that if and when we reach a peace treaty which calls for a significant withdrawal the people will decide in a referendum whether to accept or reject the government's proposal. I think this is the democratic way. It is inconceivable that a group, even of 100 people, should decide to stage a hunger strike if the government does not accept its position on a certain issue. This could lead to anarchy in the State of Israel.

[Ro'e] We promised, Rabin said, that a peace treaty that entails concessions in exchange for security arrangements will be brought to the people's approval in a referendum, and that is how a decision should be made in a democratic state. Rabin said a referendum could not be announced today because there is not yet a peace treaty. I suppose, he added, that a plan acceptable to the government will muster the support of the people. Aiming his barbs at the Likud, the prime minister said: A referendum similar to the one we are proposing was never conducted about previous withdrawals.

Referring to the exposure of the Jewish underground, the prime minister was very cautious.

[Rabin] I would use the word underground cautiously. There was an underground once which was uncovered and eliminated. This time we have an underground nucleus, which I consider marginal.

[Ro'e] Nevertheless, Rabin asserted, the findings of the Shamgar Commission taught us to treat any clandestine organization seriously. [end recording]

Chief Rabbi: Golan 'Inseparable' Part of Israel

TA2309120894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisra'el Lau called on the hunger strikers in Gamla in the Golan earlier today and told them that Israel's Chief Rabbinical Council considers the Golan an inseparable part of Israel. According to him, the Golan settlers fulfill the Biblical precept of colonizing the Land of Israel. He called on them to cease their hunger strike because of the sanctity of the Sukkoth holiday.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that thousands continue to converge on Gamla to express solidarity with the hunger strikers. Some 2,500 youths of the Betar Youth Movement arrived on the site a short time ago.

Peres Discusses Golan Withdrawal, Peace With Syria

TA2209124894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on 22 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] Peres says that the agreement between Israel and Syria should be tested over a long period, beyond the elections which will take place in about two years.

[Peres] Israel has two considerations in its timetable. One is elections of course, but no less important is the test of time. What Israel would really like is for the first stage to pass the test of time and then see whether or not matters fall into place. So, those who talk about elections should also take content into consideration.

[Raz] In other words, it is in Israel's interest to have the test period of the agreement last beyond the 1996 elections.

[Peres] Absolutely. This is indeed the situation.

[Raz] How about high-level meetings, such as between you and your Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', or perhaps on a higher level still, between Prime Minister Rabin and President al-Asad?

[Peres] To the best of my knowledge, these two meetings have not been scheduled, and the Syrian position to date is that they do not want a meeting on the political level before a withdrawal takes place. So, there is no plan for meetings at this stage.

[Raz] How about the symbolic step of a handshake between you and al-Shar', perhaps during a public occasion?

[Peres] Israel is extending its hand for peace. It is prepared to shake hands with our past enemies in order to bring peace closer.

[Raz] I understand that regarding the next stage in the negotiations with the Palestinians you do not rule out giving more power to the Palestinians in the territories and also handing over additional territories to them, along the lines of the Jericho model?

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[Peres] Look, we began with some of the area and now we begin with some of the powers. Ultimately, we should progress toward a complete partial agreement and then toward a permanent arrangement. What we said is what we meant and what we need to do.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 22 September adds: "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told diplomatic correspondents that although there had been a real improvement in the atmosphere, the real negotiations have not yet begun." "The Syrians have made no concessions on key issues such as security arrangements or the headwaters of the Jordan River. The real peace negotiations with Syria have not yet begun, Peres said, and the two sides are still jockeying for the best possible opening position. He conceded that it would be almost impossible to conduct the negotiations once the election campaigns begin in Israel and the United States."

[Peres said he thinks "time is running out for Israel and Syria to reach an agreement, but what can you do about it? We are responsible only for 50 percent of the story, and when it comes to the opening positions, I think the Syrians did not change their opening position, which is very hard to use for the opening of the negotiations." Also, "on the other hand, Peres was encouraged by the recent, more conciliatory statements of President al-Asad and Foreign Minister al-Shar', and by the posters that appeared in Damascus supporting the peace process."

[Peres wished that progress would be made before the end of 1994, "but the progress that was attained until now is, in my judgment, in the open air which exists now between the Syrians and us. I mean there is clearly a change of the psychological dimension which is very important, and I think both countries are now learning that each of them is sincerely interested in making peace." Asked what it would take to get Syria to start negotiating seriously on the substantive issues, Peres replied: "What the United States calls creative thinking; to find the ways and means that were not available or were not seen until now to bridge the differences."]

Rabinovich: 'Tiring' Talks With Syria Ahead

TA2209114994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] No breakthrough with Syria is imminent, U.S. envoy Dennis Ross told reporters in Jerusalem yesterday after briefing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on his six hours of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus on Tuesday. His comments dampened recent media speculation about a narrowing of gaps. [passage omitted]

His words were confirmed by chief negotiator with Syria Itamar Rabinovich, who said he sees no substantive progress in the talks. Instead, he spoke of "months of difficult and tiring negotiations with Syria ahead."

Rabinovich, who has been holding contacts with Syrian Ambassador to the U.S. Walid al-Mu'allim, said these talks produced no major progress, but rather were limited to contributing to favorable Syrian public actions and statements publicly supporting peace. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich "categorically" denied that the two sides have reached the stage of drawing maps for withdrawal on the Golan. He added, "Talk about drama and breakthroughs does not fit this peace process," he said. "One does not build towers of expectations. Instead, I think we are moving ahead one step at a time."

Israeli officials said the U.S. is trying to arrange a handshake between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', while both are at the UN General Assembly in New York next week.

Rabinovich made clear that the two sides are stuck on the number and length of phases of withdrawal on the Golan and corresponding normalization of relations. So far, the indications are that there have been no serious negotiations on Golan security arrangements, nor is there an effort to press Israel to commit to the principle of full Golan withdrawal.

Rabinovich also insisted that contrary to reports, the Syrians have not focused the issue on removing Israeli settlements during the first phase of withdrawal.

Mayor Olmert Calls For Talks on Jerusalem Now

TA2209120094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] In a surprise move, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday called for talks with the Palestinians on the city's political future to begin immediately.

Olmert explained that the start of negotiations now will reveal that the government is willing to make concessions on Jerusalem.

"After everything else is dealt with—the Golan and the other territories are returned—the issue of Jerusalem will be raised, and the government will then tell us that compromise must be made on Jerusalem, or the entire agreement will be destroyed," Olmert told Israel TV last night.

"If the government is indeed firm in its stated position that Jerusalem must remain undivided, it is essential that this be made clear immediately," Olmert said.

He said the government has already conceded too much by allowing Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, to operate freely and Palestinians to set up their own education system in the city.

Olmert also blasted Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for supporting the upcoming economic conference in Casablanca over a similar meeting scheduled in Jerusalem around the same time.

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"The government of Israel is taking steps that do injury to the status of Jerusalem," he said.

Olmert's call for negotiations now comes after his repeated appeals to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin over the government's alleged concessions on Jerusalem were not answered, a source close to the mayor said.

Netanyahu Proposes 'Strategic Consensus' to Hasan

TA2209130094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel and Jordan should reach a "strategic consensus" opposing a PLO state or a confederation of the territories with Jordan, Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu suggested to Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan at a meeting in London yesterday.

In a phone interview, Netanyahu refused to characterize Hasan's reaction to the idea. He would only say, "It was a very warm meeting. There were quite a few areas in which we saw eye-to-eye."

The first public meeting between a high-ranking Jordanian and a Likud official lasted approximately three hours and took place at the Jordanian ambassador's London residence.

"I made it clear that I view Palestinian statehood as a threat to both Israel and Jordan," Netanyahu said. He said a strategic consensus between the two could be broadened to include other Arab countries, as well as non-Arab states like Turkey.

Netanyahu's proposal follows a letter he wrote to Husayn at the time of the breakthrough between the two countries in July, excerpts of which were obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

"It is impossible...to envision a durable solution to the dispute over (the territories) that does not address the national interests of both Jordan and Israel," Netanyahu wrote. "I do not believe that we should rush in to impose solutions like confederation which would be inimical to those interests.

"Instead, we must patiently build from the ground up a new reality that would encourage peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews from the territories—and ensure the security so vital for our countries and without which a stable peace cannot endure."

Netanyahu said he told Hasan that he viewed the "continuity of the Hashemite Kingdom as a vital Israeli interest," noting how King Husayn has taken a "responsible" stance toward Israel over the last two decades.

When asked if this contradicts his past public statements declaring "Jordan is Palestine," Netanyahu said those statements were "descriptive and not prescriptive. I cannot determine who governs Jordan, but my preference would be the Hashemites" given their track record toward Israel.

In public comments, both Hasan and Netanyahu went out of their way to stress that their talks did not touch on issues under negotiation between the two governments, such as the demarcation of borders and water allocation.

Hasan told Israeli and Jordanian journalists after the meeting that he hoped that 1994 would be a "threshold" year for peace. "This meeting is part of our efforts to get to know Israel's political spectrum and its leaders," he told Jordan Television last night.

[A report by London correspondent Yo'av Limor on page 5 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 22 September adds that when asked whether Jordan would change its approach toward the peace process if the Likud rose to power in Israel, Prince Hasan responded that Jordan is committed to a comprehensive peace for the entire region. "I cannot speak in Netanyahu's name and predict the future," he added. Asked about a possible visit to Jerusalem by him or by King Husayn, Hasan replied: "I rather not talk about a date at the moment."]

Netanyahu reportedly informed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of the meeting only hours before it occurred, and did not include an Israeli diplomat in the session. Asked if he would brief Rabin, as he did after meeting Hasan in May, Netanyahu would only say: "Perhaps."

Ten Arrested, 3 Wounded in Clashes in Hebron

TA2209170494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] At least 10 Israelis have been arrested and three wounded in clashes in Hebron between worshippers and security forces near the Cave of the Patriarchs. Thousands of settlers made their way to the Cave of the Patriarchs after police barriers were removed. The settlers danced around the tomb and pressed forward until they were stopped at the cave's entrance by a line of policemen. Soldiers and Border Police were trying to prevent the settlers from holding a prayer service at the site. Earlier, the Army had declared the area a closed military zone fearing for the security of the worshippers.

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Sources Deny Talks With Israel in Herzliyya

JN2209115794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Excerpt] Informed Jordanian sources have denied that the next Jordanian-Israeli round of negotiations will be held in Herzliyya. The sources stressed that a venue for the talks has not yet been agreed upon. The sources said that despite the recent consultations and contacts between the two parties, a venue for the October round of negotiations has not been discussed yet.

The same sources asserted that Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli side to the negotiations with Jordan, will remain the head of the Israeli side and that no change has taken place in this regard, contrary to reports that Rubinstein had been replaced by Eytan Ben-Tsur, who is considered the fourth man in the Israeli Foreign Ministry and Ezer Weisman's adviser for political affairs. [passage omitted]

Assassination Attempts on Envoy to Yemen Reported

JN2309101694 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 24-30 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Yemeni security agencies, in cooperation with Jordanian security agencies, have recently aborted two attempts to assassinate Jordanian Ambassador in Sanaa' Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi'.

Well-informed sources in Sanaa told SHIHAN that the first assassination attempt was made by elements belonging to the Abu-Nidal group [Fatah-The Revolutionary Council, led by Sabri al-Banna] after they assassinated martyr Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut. This was part of a scheme to assassinate a number of Jordanian diplomats in Arab and foreign countries in order to prevent Jordan from continuing in the ongoing peace process with Israel.

These sources noted that Jordanian security agencies received information that Abu-Nidal's group intended to assassinate ambassador al-Rabi' and passed this information to Yemeni security agencies, which, based on this information, were able to abort the attempt and to arrest the elements hired to carry out this task, who entered Sanaa using forged Arab passports.

As for the other assassination attempt, these sources said that a Gulf state supported this operation to force Jordan to adopt a stand supporting the secession carried out by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and to retract its officially declared stand in support of legitimacy and unity in Yemen.

The sources noted that unionist elements within the YSP and the southern Yemeni security agencies revealed this attempt to Yemeni authorities in Sanaa, which in turn took the necessary measures to abort this operation. These sources said that the elements arrested are from southern Yemen and are now detained in Sanaa in preparation for their public trial after the investigation is complete and when Yemen's internal circumstances allow such trials.

The sources noted that the important role played by Ambassador al-Rabi' in strengthening Jordanian-Yemeni relations and in conveying the true picture of the situation in Yemen to his government, which resulted in adopting an official Jordanian stand toward the Yemeni crisis, could be the reason behind this assassination attempt. The sources said that Ambassador Fayiz al-Rabi' and the Jordanian Embassy in Sanaa and its staff are now subject to strict security measures by the Yemeni agencies, which continue to be apprehensive. The sources noted that a number of armored vehicles are permanently stationed in front of the embassy while Yemeni intelligence forces protect the Jordanian diplomats and their homes and accompanies them all the time, unnoticed.

SHIHAN also learned that after these developments, it has been decided to transfer Ambassador al-Rabi' back to headquarters in Amman in order to protect his life.

Hasan-Netanyahu London Meeting Termed 'Success'

JN2209115294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 20

[Article by the political affairs editor]

[Text] Jordanian policy achieved yet another success through yesterday's meeting between His Royal Highness Prince Hasan and Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Israeli Likud Party. Jordan's vigilant policy has succeeded in enhancing Jordan's central role in the peace process and establishing its regional weight and attentive, confident response to all developments.

It should be observed here that the Likud Party itself has undergone a radical change. It has abandoned many of its ideological tenets, foremost of which is the concept of the alternative homeland or the idea that Jordan is Palestine, avowed by [former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el] Sharon all along.

Jordan's attentive policy, led by His Majesty King Husayn, has exacted recognition of Jordan's central role in the peace process. This has prompted Binyamin Netanyahu to support the Washington Declaration and its products.

This, in the final analysis, means that the Likud Party has agreed to Israel's making peace with Jordan and disavowed all the concepts that its leaders had advocated.

When His Royal Highness Prince Hasan meets with the Likud leader, this also shows that Jordan is open to all the shades of the political spectrum in Israel. Thus, the Israeli Government cannot escape the obligations of peace with Jordan by saying, for example, that the opposition Likud Party rejects the general framework of peace with Jordan.

Yesterday's meeting between His Royal Highness Prince Hasan and the leader of the Israeli opposition Likud Party confirms once again Jordan's commitment to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace with all the

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political parties concerned in Israel, because peace is our option and goal. We are open to all the forces and trends that also express their commitment to the achievement of peace and the restoration of all our legitimate rights.

Chief of Staff Leaves for United States

JN2209195194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left Amman today on an official visit to the United States. The visit will last several days.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by the chief of staff of the Royal Ground Forces.

Embassy's Transfer to Jerusalem Protested

JN2209112094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 21

[Report by Aman al-Sa'ih]

[Excerpt] Dozens of citizens staged a sit-in yesterday in front of the Guatemalan Embassy in Amman to protest Guatemala's planned transfer of its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Nidal al-Sukhtiyan, chief of the Amman Bureau of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee that called for the sit-in, handed a statement to Nadim Khuri, Guatemala's consul in Jordan. The statement spells out the attitude of the protesters toward this step against the Arabs—Muslims and Christians. The step also violates international laws and norms regarding Jerusalem and the other occupied territories and conflicts with the Middle East peace process, the statement said.

The statement urged the Guatemalan Government to reverse this decision that prejudices the holy city. Al-Sukhtiyah said he hoped that the Guatemalan consul would convey the message of the protesters to the Guatemalan Government. [passage omitted]

King Renews Confidence in al-Majali

JN2209182594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court today with members of the press and media community. His majesty stressed that Jordan is the country of emigrants [Palestinians] and supporters [Jordanians], and that all of us must work to make Jordan an example to be followed by others. His majesty wished everyone in the Arab homeland well. His majesty added that we have made good headway in the peace process and that arriving at an agreement or a treaty with Israel will not take place before resolving all issues on the agenda. His majesty said:

[Begin Husayn recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet again with the brother companions in this long journey of work, service, and commitment to performing our duty toward our unified good people and the coming generations, God willing. Our duty is to continue efforts to make this country an example and a model for those looking for alternatives to the current regional situation. This in terms of shura, democracy, and respect for human rights and concentration on the human being to help him attain his rights, develop self-esteem, and to be more than just a figure. He should be an effective and influential member of our collective march. On the other hand, a frustrated, desperate individual who is denied all his rights is easy prey for all quarters entertaining ambitions, aims, or purposes. This is because when one loses his humanity, he is in a situation so painful that he becomes apathetic about what may happen around him or to him.

We are not criticizing anyone. We just want this country to be a model. We beseech God to grant us success in this endeavor. In the past, this resulted in major responsibilities. This is because a man must know his limits and must not violate others' rights. At the same time, if we view the country as a whole and its situation, some in the region may view us with skepticism and even hostility. We wish everyone in the Arab homeland well. But, we insist on our course, our way, our style, and our right to follow this way. We hope they will understand our situation. I believe they must realize we cannot stop or reverse the hands of the clock. They must realize we all must move ahead, toward the point from which the Arab nation can proceed toward the future for which the pioneers aspired and for the sake of which they offered sacrifices to define its features, in order to achieve integration and cooperation in an atmosphere of brotherhood, mutual respect, and concern for the interest of the nation, rather than the interest of individuals in various places in the Arab homeland.

As for us here, we are, thanks be to God, moving forward. I ask almighty God to help me return part of the favor and debt of love and trust, which is my raison d'etre as head of this one family and this march. It is obvious to all of you, through what we have been through, that we have always handled things not so much from a short-term perspective as from the angle of long-term public interests. Thanks be to God, our long journey has given us credibility. We ask God to give us success in continuing to fulfill our duties together—all the children of this country. I have been criticized because I always say Jordanians of all origins, but this is what things are really like. Maybe it is time we talked about the Jordanian people and quit saying origins. This is because the Jordanian people are (?brilliant). This is the country of the emigrants and supporters, the country of the one family and the one march. All enjoy equal rights. All have the same obligations. We will go along the same road until the circumstances arise for anyone to choose—either to stay with us or choose another road.

His excellency the prime minister has an appointment after a little while. We won't detain him much longer. I wanted at this session to reiterate my full confidence in him, indeed the confidence of all of us. At the beginning of this stage we decided to move in the direction of the quest for peace,

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along with all the parties concerned. This was before the stage of the formation of the umbrella that enabled our Palestinian brothers to move to pursue their rights and speak for themselves, according to their own and the Arab nation's wish as of the Rabat summit. At the national gathering here in Jordan, we looked at all the options and decided to take the road of peace—a just peace under which the next generations can live comfortably in an environment completely different from the one we have lived. Here in Jordan we looked at who will handle this difficult mission and the new battle, the battle of peace. Our choice was Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. He complied with our will and shouldered his responsibilities and now he is the prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

We continue to be on the same path. We have not yet reached our objectives. However, in terms of his efforts, and of all who shouldered the responsibility, and all who had and still have a part in the negotiations process, they are considered the top in terms of their sincerity, awareness, eagerness to preserve interests, and their realization of all the factors and the dimensions of the difficult march and the circumstances of the battle we are waging.

He is the prime minister, and my first adviser. The ministers are his ministers, but they are also the ministers of the king. The issue of a [cabinet] reshuffle concerns him and concerns them as well. We appreciate all those who shouldered their responsibilities on all levels during this stage, as well as the role they played. Responsibility is, in fact, an effort and a suffering; it is not a reward or something that pleases the one who shoulders this responsibility from far or near.

We want to end the rumors and stories. We have full confidence in him. We ask God to grant him success. He is pure in his soul and conscience; he is good, frank, and courageous. He is from our good land. We ask God to grant him success. We will support him with all our potential and our strength.

Naturally, there are always some observations. We discuss them and try to find the appropriate solutions in every stage on the path we are taking. In this stage, for example, we are trying to see that the administrative institution is on the required and appropriate level in terms of people's confidence in it, its performance, and its giving.

During our meeting with the prime minister and the Council of Ministers a few days ago, we discussed the need for concentrating on a mechanism to choose the most appropriate, most efficient, and most capable of giving, particularly in high positions, so that people in these positions will only be replaced when there is a dire need for this. This aims at achieving stability and continuation in terms of work and performance.

We have always talked about the need to keep the image of this country pure, in the full sense of the word. As we are moving toward a stage in which there will be many potentials for changing the people's way of life—through the opportunities that will be created by the coming stage—we want to be reassured about the confidence of every person in this country in the march and in the fact that no elements will have an opportunity to benefit from all of this at the expense of the entire group. We want this country to remain pure in the full sense of the word. Straightness is an essential issue. People's rights should be safeguarded within their limits. Consequently, this prompted us, after a long discussion, to concentrate on straightening certain aspects in one way or another. Hence, the royal commission was set up recently. Its task is difficult. It does not aim at competing with the government over anything, but to help. I want to remind you all—and some of you wrote about this more than once—that the issue is not that of the government and the executive branch only. There are elements who can have influence even on more than this executive branch in terms of stopping any progress, or obstructing any march, for different purposes. We seek to reinforce the position of the government.

We want you all to help us achieve our objective based on your opinion, experience, and knowledge, and support the stands of all the good people in this country in the legislative and executive branches in the entire Jordanian arena. So, there was no need to shed light on other dimensions, because the objective is to achieve our own interests. The objective concerns the reputation of the people, the administration, and the government in this country. If there is anything good for this country in the future, it will not come to individuals, but to everyone. We should tackle the people's affairs and their situation, and move forward in the full sense of the word.

Regarding the peace process and the negotiations process, we believe that performance has so far been good and excellent. Contrary to some remarks that have appeared from time to time, to the effect that we have not made progress or achieved anything, we have made good strides. Praise be to God, from the very beginning, we insisted on the method that we believed is the best and the safest, namely, to negotiate on all the issues, and consequently to reach a satisfactory situation concerning all the issues included in the agenda. Consequently, when peace is achieved in a form of a treaty or an agreement in the future, it will be the result of resolving all these problems. I believe we have made good strides on this road. God willing, there are good signs of the possibility for matters to continue in the right direction in a way that restores our rights to our territory and our water, and to what is related to this people and their right to life. God willing, it will lead to a comprehensive peace in this region so they will be able to achieve a great deal, as they have achieved under difficult circumstances and in the face of challenges, dangers, and the daily concern over the situation in each day we have so far lived. [end recording]

A comprehensive dialogue was then held between his majesty the king and members of the press and media community on various national and regional issues.

Attending the meeting were the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, his majesty the king's advisers, the personal adviser to his highness the crown prince, and Jum'ah Hammad, culture minister and acting information minister.

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Al-Majali Views Cabinet Status, Opposition

JN2209154794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 8

[Interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by AL-RA'Y Chief Editor Sulayman al-Qudah in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qudah] Much has been said about a possible cabinet reshuffle. Some have observed that you have not yet built bridges with the legislative branch, which led to a weak performance on the part of the House of Representatives and the government alike. This has fostered much speculation about a possible cabinet reshuffle. Some people say you are not satisfied with the current ministerial team.

[Al-Majali] I want to stress, right from the very beginning, that I have never felt, not even for a moment, that the government has any differences with the House of Representatives. Neither myself nor the government has ever taken any stand against any member or bloc in the House of Representatives. In addition, I have not felt that the government has, in any way, circumvented the house's powers. The House of Representatives has on several occasions asked us to brief it on the government's policy. We have done that. We met with the House members and listened to their views. Our meetings have always been fruitful.

Regrettably, however, the media is directly influencing some members of the cabinet and the house, one way or another. But some others conduct a careful, thorough study before reacting to the media. The government has sought, from the outset, not to sanction membership in the legislative and executive branches at the same time, in order to gauge the success of this experiment. As we all know, the House of Representatives is made up of 80 members. The members who were elected on an absolutely partisan basis are very limited in number (excluding the Islamic Action Front Party). As for the rest, they were elected on account of their own personalities. When we want to form a government, we face a problem of concord. Cousins disagree when it comes to elections. The same goes for blocs. We sought to give the parties and parliamentary blocs enough time in order for them to coalesce strongly together to form coherent parties whose members are committed to each other. Once this happens, it will become easier to deal with them. This is because it is difficult to deal with the house on an individual basis. Our view was to give the parties and blocs enough time to establish themselves more firmly. By saying this, I am not implying that all house members want to join the cabinet. However, it is their legal right to be part of the government. Let me add here that even the political parties have not established themselves firmly to play an influential role during their short life span.

Several developments have taken place. The peace process has been activated. This is an important issue that has to do with the fate of the country. Now, after some time has passed, the picture has become clearer for all members of the opposition. His majesty the king and his successive governments have saved the country through the peace process, especially in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the problems and crises that faced Jordan and the undeserved punishment meted out to it.

As for reshuffling the cabinet, this is up to His Majesty King Husayn, who has this power under the Constitution. His Majesty King Husayn always observes the reactions of the citizens to the government and the ministers individually. He also observes the performance of the government. When his majesty thinks the cabinet has not carried out a certain task or failed to carry it out, then he may reshuffle the government. Also, when he thinks that there is a change in national interests or in the political line, then he may reshuffle the government. This can happen. In addition, if he observes any signs of corruption in the government, then he may change some or all of its members. This is his Constitutional right.

This, however, should not cause us to paint a false picture of the process; we should not give the impression that there is a conflict. Some people like to see a conflict between the legislative and executive branches. I do not see any conflict. The deputies were chosen by the people to serve the public interest. Likewise, his majesty the king chose us to serve the interests of the public. The king observes the performance of both of us. It is up to the king if he thinks the government has fulfilled its duties or done enough.

In return, we as government and deputies should understand the delicate circumstances we are experiencing. The outside world interprets any move on our part differently. It is not an easy job, therefore, to oversee public interests by the deputies, ministers, or media officials.

[Al-Qudah] How do you measure the performance of your ministerial team?

[Al-Majali] We do not know everything about the ministers we choose. Political circumstances play a role in our choice. Matters become clearer once we start dealing with the ministers. It is natural to have differences. However, the public interest is what we all seek. There is no conflict or aversion. The government is not one party and the ministers another. However, you have what you call a majority or a group. We are all members of the cabinet. Each minister heads his ministry in accordance with a methodology and the following slogan: We are all free and we are all partners.

However, when some people are not consulted, they tend to criticize and manipulate others.

[Al-Qudah] It was reported that you submitted your resignation following the Washington Declaration, and that you were unaware of what was going on?

[Al-Majali] This is untrue, baseless, and without good intentions. This is not the first time that we have heard groundless fabrications. This is unreasonable and far removed from truth.

[Al-Qudah] What about the relationship between the government and the opposition?

[Al-Majali] If there had been no opposition, we would have created it. In my opinion, the opposition can see the other

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side of the picture, the side the government does not see. Opposition complements the picture. An opposition that levels accusations of treason and infidelity is not considered an opposition. I cannot reply to them in the same way and exchange accusations and insults with them. People no longer think someone insults the government is a hero. On the contrary, they have started to realize this is wrong. There must be an opposition that shows the other side of the picture and that expresses its own opinion for the welfare of the country.

Regarding the opposition accusations that we are imposing a media blackout on them, I would like to say this is not true. Their newspapers are still published and their opinions are given prominence in television, radio, and press. The severest measure we have taken was making some remarks about what is being said and written, and sending law violators to court. The opposition is dealing with us as if we were a political party. This is not the case. Some ministers, however, have political and cultural backgrounds, while the house is working independently to serve all parties, not just a single party.

[Al-Qudah] The opposition has some reservations about the way the official media are dealing with it, as well as about the media blackout.

[Al-Majali] First of all, have the party media reflected the government's views? Secondly, television broadcast time is limited. Still, the television depicts both government and opposition. We have seen and heard many opposition members on many television programs. Still, we cannot devote television transmission time only to the political opposition.

[Al-Qudah] The parties complain about the security measures taken against them in terms of restricting their activities in holding seminars, lectures, and other activities.

[Al-Majali] In this regard we are only implementing the law, which should not be violated in any case. The law stipulates that state utilities cannot be used by parties. This law was drafted by the deputies themselves in a previous parliamentary session. It also prohibits the government from licensing the utilization of state-owned places like mosques, schools, universities, the Royal Cultural Center, and other places. It was the deputies themselves who legislated the law and nobody can violate the law. The parties can use other public places not owned by the state, like cinemas, private halls, or open areas.

Whenever there is a violation of the law, the respective person is referred to the court, which is a fair body that judges in accordance with the law. The court may acquit the person. This is real justice. Asking us to remain silent about law violations is illogical and unjust. It is equally unreasonable for us to reply in kind to legal violations, accusations, and insults.

[Al-Qudah] Regarding the peace process, whether before or after the Washington Declaration, there is a general impression that we are taking fast strides toward normalization.

[Al-Majali] There is a international interest in the cause of peace. We have all felt the impact of the sanctions imposed on Jordan for its attitude toward the Gulf crisis. If we had rejected the peace process, Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab interests would have been adversely affected. One of the negative results would have been emptying the Palestinian land of its people. We are not the most powerful state in the region. We cannot resist the international trend. There has been great economic pressure on Jordan represented by al-'Aqabah siege, the suspension of aid to Jordan, and direct hostility to Jordan. Now, all of this has changed. We are not a superpower. We cannot act as if we are, despite the fact that we have a distinguished presence in the international arena.

As for speed on the negotiating track and what is being said about normalization, we are treading a very difficult negotiating track. Negotiations are just like an examination. Some people start with the difficult questions, others with the easy ones, and the rest follow the order in which the questions are listed in the examination paper. In negotiations we do not waste time; we seek to solve problems according to their precedence and importance. We have foiled the other party's plans to confuse us. The major issues of discussion are water, borders, refugees, and other sub-issues.

To say we embarked on normalization by—for example—establishing telephone links and opening a crossing in the south, is not true. Opening telephone links was a step to make real gains in substantive issues, and instead of making contacts from under the table, we have established open links. As for the crossing, it has brought in tourists, and no Jordanians have used it.

The question of negotiations is a thorny one and needs much time. It cannot produce fast results, as some believe. For instance, in the area of borders, we are negotiating everything in parallel lines. We are discussing everything and all issues, in order to prevent any Israeli superiority over Jordan. In negotiations, there is give and take. Gain and loss cannot be decided now. We know, however, that we will make good gains. In the economic field, Jordan has managed to reschedule its debts for three years, and about $890 million of its debts were written off. There are pledges that more debts will be scrapped. We have started to get easy loans with interest not exceeding 2 percent.

All of this, however, cannot be called normalization. We are still far from that. Negotiations still have a very long way to go before the main issues of interest to Jordan can be solved.

[Al-Qudah] What are the latest developments of Jordanian-Arab relations?

[Al-Majali] Regarding our relations with the Gulf states, there has recently been more warmth than before. Relations with some of them have started to return to normal. The recent visit of counselor Mashhur al-Zabn to Kuwait had a markedly positive impact. This was clear in the reception he was accorded at all levels, especially his meeting with Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al- Sabah. Our relations

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with all Gulf states are acquiring more warmth. This is also clear through meetings at ministerial and senior official levels.

[Al-Qudah] What about Iraq?

[Al-Majali] We were and will always remain with the Iraqi people, heart and soul, and we have not budged an inch from that position.

[Al-Qudah] What about the new draft income tax law?

[Al-Majali] The gist of the issue is that we have submitted a proposal, a mere draft law, to monitor reactions to it. Here we are seeking well-studied opinions, not just accusations and vituperations. We believe we should ease taxes on the poor and the middle class. This, in fact, is in the interest of the citizens. The furor that took place was over the stocks trading tax. There is a difference between the possession of stocks and trading in them. Trade means either loss or profit. Therefore, taxes will be only computed at the end of the year, after computing the outcome of trading in stocks.

[Al-Qudah] How do you evaluate the press?

[Al-Majali] We call on papers to earmark part of their profits for research, analysis, and fact-finding. The press has a power similar to that of the government. It must set up an actual body that seeks truth. What is required is analysis and verification.

Finance Minister Cited on Arab Monetary Fund Loan

JN2209114194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 21

[Text] Finance Minister Sami Qammuh has said that the Arab Monetary Fund has agreed to grant Jordan a $32-million loan under easy terms.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Qammuh said this loan will be used to support the Jordanian balance of payments and enhance the Central Bank's foreign and hard currency reserves.

In reply to a question on other loans, Qammuh said that Jordan expects to receive a total of $125 million from the World Bank and Japan before the end of this year.

He added that the money will be used to set up development projects that contribute to reviving the national economy and reducing unemployment.

Reports of Halting West Bank Salaries Denied

JN2209124594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Speaking to our news desk, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, has denied a report carried by Israeli radio today that the Awqaf Ministry plans to stop paying the salaries of employees working with the Islamic awqaf and holy places in the West Bank. Dr. al-'Abbadi said this report was baseless. [passage omitted]

Government Reshuffle Reports Said 'Serious'

MM2209144494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Sep 94 p 4

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources close to Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali confirmed yesterday that the cabinet reshuffle is serious this time and will take place soon, so that al-Majali will face the House of Representatives next month with a new, strong, reshuffled cabinet. It has also been confirmed that, in an unprecedented move, al-Majali will deliver the speech from the throne on behalf of King Husayn. The sources said that the reshuffle would affect one-third of the cabinet, which consists of 31 ministers including al-Majali. [passage omitted]

The sources denied that al-Majali would resign and reaffirmed that there would be a cabinet reshuffle, not a change of government. [passage omitted]

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Defense Source Denies South African Arms Deal

NC2209121394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Beirut, 22 Sep (MENA)—A military source in the Lebanese Defense Ministry today denied that there is an agreement on an arms deal with South Africa. The source described this information as untrue. He said there is no agreement with South Africa to sell arms to the Lebanese Government.

Some media organs earlier reported that an arms company in South Africa struck a $700,000 deal with Lebanon, involving assault Kalashnikov rifles and ammunition, and that these arms have been shipped to a Lebanese port. These media organs said yesterday that the export of this shipment was stopped for political reasons.

Syria's Al-Asad Said To Settle River Waters Deal

MM2209133694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has announced that "the meetings of the Lebanese-Syrian Follow-Up and Coordination Committee has reached decisions on a number of issues which will benefit the two countries economically and with which we are very satisfied."

He told AL-HAYAH on his return to Beirut yesterday from Damascus, where he headed a Lebanese delegation of 11 ministers at the committee meetings, that "Lebanon will benefit a lot from the agreements approved by the committees, especially the agreement related to the distribution of al-'Asi River waters." [passage omitted]

Ministerial sources have told AL-HAYAH that the agreement on the distribution of al-'Asi River waters required protracted discussions and was settled by President Hafiz al-Asad, when he received the committee's members the day before yesterday after learning of a dispute between the two sides over determining the area of the river basin. So al-Asad urged the Syrian side not to focus on the details, "since matters between us and Lebanon are not dealt with by detail.... What benefits the Lebanese people benefits us." [passage omitted]

Hizballah Reacts to Remark on Group's Future

NC2309100994 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 9 Sep 94 p 2

[Text] Commenting on a statement by the defense minister that Hizballah will dissolve itself once the Israeli occupation is removed, an official Hizballah source has stated the following: Hizballah does not need someone to speak on its behalf or reflect its positions. Hizballah has been expressing the aspirations of a large sector of the Lebanese people. The party is a symbol of jihad for many Arabs and Muslims, and it is present on the stage thanks to its struggle, jihad, policies, and relations, not as a favor granted by anyone. The existence of this vanguard group in the life of the nation, therefore, cannot be linked to a circumstance, a moment, or certain developments. Hizballah's role and mission are at the heart of our nation's responsibilities, and as it has proven, the party is standing in the first line of defense for the country's dignity and interests, confronting the Zionist onslaught against the land, the people, and their prospects.

Resistance Retaliates for Israeli Shelling

NC2209200294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The occupation forces bombarded the Qabrikha and Majdal Silm towns at 1900 today. Shells landed in the inner quarters of the two towns causing grave material damage to houses and property.

The resistance men retaliated by attacking the occupation forces positions in al-Qantarah town on the road leading to Tallusah in Marj 'Uyun. Simultaneously, the support unit of the Martyr Mahmud Haydar Group attacked an enemy forces post killing and wounding a number of personnel manning the post.

Israelis Shell Iqlim Al-Tuffah Heights

NC2309083594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces this morning bombarded the Iqlim al-Tuffah Heights, concentrating on Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal al-Rafi', from their positions in al-Zaffatah. The Israeli forces directed heavy machinegun fire at the areas of Mimas and Mazra'at 'Ayn al-Jur but there were no reports of casualties.

Pro-Israeli Militia Returns Fire of 'Saboteurs'

NC2309074894 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Saboteurs fired bursts of gunfire and rockets at the al-Nabi Tahir and Kafr Tibnit posts at about 2300 [2000 GMT] yesterday from the eastern quarters of Kafr Tibnit, but inflicted no casualties. The personnel manning both posts and tank crews returned fire at the saboteurs.

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Palestinians Said Asked To Ease Criticism of Talks

NC2309100594 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 27

[From the "News Market" feature]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has asked Damascus-based Palestinian opposition organizations to tone down their criticism of the peace process with Israel and not to refer clearly to this in statements they issue from Damascus. He wants them to confine their criticism to the Gaza-Jericho agreement only.

Some of these organizations, notably the Fathi al-Shiqaqi-led Islamic Jihad in Palestine and the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, are considering leaving for Tehran. It is known that both factions have close links with Iran.

Al-Shar' Rejects Meeting With Israel's Peres

NC2309092194 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Sep 94 p 14

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that he will not meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres or any other Israeli official before a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon starts.

In an exclusive statement to ROSE AL-YUSUF, al-Shar' said Syria currently prefers that any contacts or arrangements be made through the U.S. Administration in its capacity as one of the sponsors of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The Syrian foreign minister said that Arab coordination is not feasible now that separate peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel and the Jordanians have been signed. This has harmed the interests of the other parties still negotiating with Israel, he said, adding that coordination between Syria and Lebanon will continue because the two countries share a common destiny.

Last week, Israel asked Egypt and the U.S. Administration to persuade Syria to accept a direct meeting between Mr. al-Shar' and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in a country of Syria's choosing. [passage omitted]

Israel Blamed for 'Failure' of Ross Mission

JN2309090094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the recent meeting between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East special coordinator, asserting that Mr. Ross was impressed by this meeting. The paper notes that he expressed optimism when he made an overall assessment of his Syria visit and talks. This is to be attributed to the fact that Syria, which has constantly demonstrated a commitment to the peace process and pushed it forward, underscoring the need to heed the Madrid conference formula and the relevant UN resolutions, has never laid obstacles or barriers in the way of a just and comprehensive peace. It has always sought to achieve a real breakthrough in the peace talks.

The paper adds: Syria, as attested to by the international community, has never spared any effort to promote the cause of peace. It has demonstrated exemplary awareness, and cooperated honestly with U.S. efforts to achieve peace. By contrast, Israeli intransigence has remained the major obstacle scuttling U.S. efforts.

In this regard, the paper notes the statements made by the U.S. envoy and Israeli officials on the real gaps and big differences between the Syrian and Israeli positions. These statements have brought nothing new. But, they sum up the outcome of Ross's mission, and show that Israel was behind its failure. Likewise, these statements provide additional evidence of Israel's disregard for peace, and show that Israel is the major hitch precluding the attainment of peace. Israel is scuttling peace efforts and preventing them from proceeding toward the set and desired objective.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel is engaged in maneuvering, procrastination, prevarication, and semantics, and making propagandistic statements that lack credibility and commitment. Meanwhile, it is holding on to the occupied Arab territories. By so doing, Israel is consecrating the course of evading the requirements of peace, which mandates full compliance with the relevant UN resolutions and complete withdrawal to the pre-June 4, 1967 borders.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The attempts to make gains, force dictates, blackmail Syria and Lebanon, and terminate the cooperation and coordination between them are futile. They will fail to make Syria change its firm principled positions. Similarly, they will not undermine Syria's quest for just and comprehensive peace, which would return the territories and rights and protect dignity. This requires the international community in general, and the U.S. cosponsor of the peace talks in particular, to redouble its efforts to make Israel accept the land-for-peace formula, and force its leaders to realize that there is no alternative to complete and full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon if peace is to be achieved.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH addresses the debate currently witnessed on the Israeli political scene regarding withdrawal from the Golan, saying: This debate has given rise to amazement and astonishment. Similarly, it has prompted one to carefully examine the Israeli mind-set, which is negotiating without any consideration for international legitimacy.

The paper adds: Israeli statements on the Golan reflect the Israeli negotiators' determination to raise diluted formulas for partial withdrawals, and show a preference for partial deals, which are not opposed by anyone in Israel. This confirms that the partial deals achieved thus far only promote Israeli interests, and that they cannot be conducive to just and comprehensive peace.

The paper wonders whether such a mind-set can promote the cause of peace, and the peace process, which is meant to

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be advanced. Washington has vowed to render this process a success to achieve a just, comprehensive, and viable peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that there is a need to confront the Rabin government's attempts to evade the requirements of peace, chief among which is complete withdrawal in implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, because this evasion precludes the success of the peace process. Israel is evading the requirements of peace. That is why it is engaged in ceaseless games aimed at confusing the peace process and peace efforts. This Israeli conduct will only waste more time and effort, and render the chances for the success of peace efforts more difficult and complicated.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions, saying: The gaps between the two positions will remain real as long as the Israeli rulers deem their occupation of the others' territory legal, and as long as the diplomatic efforts made to address this issue remain contented with learning the facts about the positions of both sides.

In this regard, the paper says that Dennis Ross, the U.S. special coordinator for the Middle East, has acknowledged that the gap between the two sides' positions are wide. Will he then recognize that peace is an indivisible whole, that the land-for-peace formula was authored by the United States, and that the party that seeks peace must relinquish aggression and the occupation of the others' territories, the paper wonders.

AL-BA'TH adds: We are aware of the value of U.S. efforts, and wish them every success. Nonetheless, Israel, which possesses all types of weapons of mass destruction, is attempting to force its dictates; and this is something that we cannot accept. For Israel, by virtue of the weapons in its possession, poses a real danger to peace and the future of the entire Middle East region.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying that there can be no peace as long as Arab territories remain under Israel's control.

Gap Between Israeli Stand, UN Resolutions Cited

JN2209132194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli officials always insist on making statements before the tours of U.S. officials. The recent tour of the region by U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross was greeted with more contradictory statements and positions by Israeli officials. These statements focused on the gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions, which are based on different viewpoints.

Analyzing these statements leads to one clear conclusion; that is, that the difference is due to the Israeli positions, which are far from the international and logical concept of peace and its pillars. Since the beginning of the peace process, Syria has adopted a clear and firm position based on the pillars of the peace process, which was launched on the basis of implementing Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Syria clearly calls for implementing these resolutions accurately, and it is prepared for the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, which is based on these resolutions, and which returns the usurped rights and the occupied Arab territories.

Since the beginning, Israel has been trying to circumvent the bases of the peace process and refuses to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel has done all it can to dwarf and divide peace, and to search for separate solutions that lack the pillars of just and comprehensive peace, and endanger this peace.

The real gap is between Israel's positions and the resolutions of international legitimacy; it is between Israel's positions and what the world is calling for. Syria's firm positions are based on international legitimacy and its resolutions. The difference is basically on abidance by these resolutions and the need to implement them. Syria said it is prepared to commit itself to the requisites of a just and comprehensive peace, while Israel refuses to adhere to these requisites and tries to evade them because they threaten its expansionist and aggressive objectives. The call for upgrading the level of negotiators is only a step within the framework of procrastination and delaying the results of the peace process and its aspired objectives.

In order for the U.S. effort to bear fruit, it requires a real response to this effort from the Israeli rulers. So far, Syria has presented convincing evidence of its seriousness about rendering these efforts successful and advancing the peace process to reach its aspired objectives; namely, a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

It has become clear to international public opinion, the U.S. Administration, and the Israeli officials that peace cannot be realized without a real commitment to its pillars and the implementation of its requirements, which begin with full withdrawal from the occupied land in the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa', in addition to the other requirements that realize security and stability in the region and the world.

Correction to 'Constructive U.S. Efforts' Viewed

JN2109104494

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Papers View 'Constructive U.S. Efforts' for Peace" published in the 21 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 29:

Page 30, column one, paragraph four, sentence five make read: ...separate deals are not conducive to peace...(supplying dropped word "not")

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Afghanistan

Iran Said To Withdraw Support From Rabbani

94P50183A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Aug 94 pp 1,4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaf faq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar—Iran has withdrawn its recognition of the legitimacy of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. It has added its voice to the voices of those who consider his presence in his post to be illegal and call for the formation of a national unity government that would take the reins of power in Kabul. This position is a change in Tehran's policy vis-a-vis the Afghan situation, implying a rapprochement with the position Islamabad took months ago in this matter.

Meanwhile, informed Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that three of the main mojahedin groups initiated a mediation effort between the two sides to the conflict, Rabbani and his counterpart Golboddin Hekmatyar, who is allied with the Uzbek militias. The initiative calls for forming a new government that will take power in the wake of the constitutional vacuum arising from the end of the president's and prime minister's terms, according to the Islamabad agreement and the Mecca pact.

Gholam Reza Haddadi, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul, said in an Iranian television broadcast night before last that the situation in Kabul is "illegal" after the end of the president's and prime minister's terms, according to the agreements concluded between the Afghan groups. He stated that "the government in Kabul is illegal and a government must be formed that includes all of the parties and groups."

This is considered the first Iranian statement against the government of President Rabbani since the end of the recent term at the end of last month. Iran gave its guarantee to implement the agreements to share power in Kabul just as Pakistan did.

It might be mentioned that Islamabad has considered the situation in Kabul illegal since the first day after the effective end of the Islamabad agreement. Observers believe that President Rabbani's government has lost the support of an important state in its struggle with the opposition. They attribute this to the slogans hostile to Iran and Pakistan that were circulated last week in Herat where Rabbani organized a conference of the Afghan principals.

Afghan sources yesterday said than three mojahedin groups, Enqelab-e Eslami led by Shaykh Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi (the Afghan vice president), the Islamic National Front led by Seyyed Ahmed Gilani (a supporter of the return of former King Mohammad Zaher Shah), and the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami led by Ayatollah Asef Mohseni and allied with the president (Rabbani) have launched an initiative to contact the two sides of the conflict in order to come to an agreement on the formation of a new government.

The leaders of these parties, with the exception of Geylani who was represented by his son Hamed, met with the Afghan president and Shaykh 'Abdol-Rabb Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami, in Kabul. The delegation sources said that they presented Rabbani and Sayyaf with a plan to form an expanded advisory council including two delegates from each party and neutral notables. The council would hold a meeting in Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan, to select a new government.

The delegation also met with Hekmatyar and he is expected to arrive in Pakistan today to follow up on his discussions with numerous Afghan principals. The official spokesman for the prime minister welcomed the delegation's initiative and considered it a step toward putting a stop to the tragedy of the Afghan people. Mas'ud Khalili, one of President Rabbani's aides, considered the step to be constructive and beneficial. However, he said that President Rabbani is the one who has called for the leaders of these parties to work to form an expanded advisory council according to the decisions of the Herat conference, which concluded its business last week.

Mojahedin Carry Out 'Successful Operations'

LD2209182294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] In the course of successful operations carried out today, the mojahedin of the Harakat-e Eslami and forces of the Wahdat-e Eslami seized positions and posts of the Mazari's men.

Reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency say that intensive fighting flared up this morning and continued all day in the direction of Jamal Maina, Mirwais Maydan, Qala-e Wahed, and Pol-e Sokhta.

The mojahedin of the Harakat-e Eslami and forces of the Wahdat-e Eslami captured 20 strong posts of Mazari's men during the day in the above directions.

According to these reports, the Mazari's men and the Golboddin-Dostam militias attacked the positions of the Harakat-e Eslami, stationed in [words indistinct]. The attack was repulsed by the resistance of the Harakat-e Eslami's mojahedin and forces of the Wahdat-e Eslami, imposing heavy losses on the Mazari's men and militia, forcing them to retreat.

Dozens of heavy and light weapons of the Mazari's men were seized by the mojahedin during today's operation. A number of militiamen and Mazari's men were captured by the Harakat-e Eslami forces in the direction of Pol-e Sokhta.

A spokesman of the Wahdat-e Eslami said that during the day dozens of men of Mazari came over to the side of the Harakat-e Eslami's mojahedin and forces of Wahdat-e Eslami.

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Kabul Fighting Continues Into Ninth Day

LD2209174094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Kabul is the scene of fighting between rival Afghan forces for the ninth day.

Forces of Wahdat-e Eslami and the joint forces of Shura-e Nezar and Sayyaf are engaged in fighting, which continues west and southwest of Kabul.

The fighting—going on since last Tuesday—has left 1,000 wounded and 100 dead.

This morning planes belonging to the Shura-e Nezar bombed rival positions in west Kabul, after which their rivals attacked the positions of Rabbani forces with heavy weapons.

Bangladesh

Article Views Prevailing Political Situation

BK2209144094 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Mobaidur Rahman]

[Text] The prospect of an understanding between the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] and the combined opposition parties no longer exists. The situation is now ripe for a conflict instead of an understanding and an encounter instead of a dialogue. Until 10 September, the movement of the Awami League, the Jatiya Party, and the Jamaat-e-Islami which was confined to parliament boycott aimed at realizing their demand for the establishment of a caretaker government. There has been a qualitative and characteristic change in the opposition movement since 10 September. Their constitutional movement to boycot the parliament has now turned into a street movement aimed at dislodging the government. The latest reports say that new strength will be added to the opposition movement starting 19 September. This strength will be provided by the combined action committee to be formed by 11 Islamic political parties on 19 September. This committee, which will be announced at a mass rally, will join the movement to oust the government.

High-level sources of both the government and the opposition parties say that the two camps have now assumed postions that are diametrically opposed. A source close to the BNP high command has said that despite talks between the two sides, the ruling party is not willing to make any concession to the opposition parties on the three issues of 1) the indemnity bill; 2) release of former President Ershad; and 3) a caretaker government. The opposition parties, particularly the Awami League and the Jatiya Party, know very well that the Indemnity Bill, which prevents the trial of the killers of the former president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and his family members, will not be repealed, and former President Ershad will not be released from jail during the term of office of the present government. These parties have decided not to return to the parliament until the ruling party introduces a bill in the parliament regarding the formation of a caretaker government.

Although the present parliament is still officially functioning, its death knell has begun due to the rigid stand taken by both the government and the opposition parties on the aforementioned issues. Reliable sources close to the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League indicate that although the current parliament has been placed under an oxygen tent, so to speak, neither of the two parties are willing to take the responsibility to formally dissolve the parliament. Everyone wants the inevitable to happen as the outcome of the normal course of political events in the country. No one is willing to say that the term of the current parliament has come to an end. The ruling party feels that they have more positive points in this regard. The ruling party understands very well that the current parliament has lost it effectiveness. Despite this, for the past six months it has unilaterally continued the dull sessions in this lifeless parliament. They will continue to play in this open field as long as possible, but they will not blow the whistle to announce that the game has ended. The opposition parties feel that if they continue their abstention there will be no normal flow of blood in the parliament. They won't return to the parliament unless their demands are met. The opposition parties are very well aware what the eventual outcome will be, but why should they officially announce that the current parliament has come to an end?

The opposition Awami League, through its 42 years of experience, has realized that nothing can be achieved by boycotting the parliament unless its action is intensified in the streets. Observers who minutely analyze the past and the present politics of Bangladesh are now able to see the signs of an impending storm in the political climate of the country, but they were unable to say definitely when this storm would come. Since 10 September the opposition parties, led by the Awami League, have been trying to create a storm in the political arena. Observers are of the opinion that the opposition parties, led by the Awami League, have now started to make an evaluation of the Dhaka Siege program observed by them on 10 September, followed by three consecutive days of strike to ascertain to what extent these programs have been able to fulfill the expectations of the opposition camp, particularly that of the Awami League. They are now calculating the results of the arithmetic problem that they have so long tried to answer.

Opposition sources say that the results of their three to four days of action do not appear to be 100 percent accurate in accordance with their prior calculations. Observers are of the opinion that the opposition parties, particularly the Awami League, will now have to explain why the outcome of their recent action was not in accordance with their expectations. Although the opposition expectation was not fully achieved, it has to be acknowledged that the democratically elected government received a severe jolt in September. It cannot be said with certainty at this moment that the downfall of the government is imminent, but there

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is no doubt that the opposition movement on the streets has given a severe jolt to the throne of the ruling BNP. Why has such a situation arisen after three and a half years?

According to informed sources, perhaps both Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman and Sheikh Hasina are overlooking one issue, namely that the BNP of Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman and the BNP of Ziaur Rahman [former president and Khaleda's husband] are not the same. Similarly, the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman [former president and Hasina's father] are not the same. The general masses express their solidarity with only those movements that reflect their aspirations and come into the streets to realize it. Does the demand for the formation of a caretaker government fulfill the needs of the people for food and clothing or their aspirations? Has Sheikh Hasina been vocal about the curse of the Farakka [dam built by India], has she protested the defamation of the Koran by Taslima Nasreen, or has she raised her voice against the entry of an Indian ship at Narayanganj Port? Then it cannot be said that she is pleading the cause of the people of this country. The late Ziaur Rahman lifted the ban on religion-based politics and won the hearts of billions [as published] of religious-minded people in this country. On the other hand, the BNP of Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman has maintained a distance from the rightist political parties. As a result, her party has lost the support for several hundred thousand people. The BNP has suffered losses due to its ties with the secular and leftist groups. Today none of the political parties, including the Awami League, the Jatiya Party, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Party, and the Jamaat-e-Islami are with the BNP. Even the National Democratic Party, the Freedom Party, the Muslim League, the Jatiya Ganotantrik Party, the Khelafat Majlis, and the Islami Constitution Movement have come out on the streets to demand the ouster of the BNP government. Both Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman understood the pulse of the people, but Khaleda Ziaur Rahman and Sheikh Hasina have failed to do so.

The second phase of the movement on the streets will begin on 27 September. On that day, the combined opposition parties have given the call for railway and road blockades. Reliable sources say that at a later stage the opposition parties will give a call to launch a noncooperation movement against the government. The second phase of the movement will also include a call for a continuous strike. The ruling BNP, which has so long adopted the path of not reacting to the opposition programs of strikes and demonstrations, will soon change its strategy. It has been reported that the BNP is going to launch organizational activities starting 16 September with a view to mobilizing public opinion to counter the opposition. The BNP will display its public support and organizational strength by holding rallies and processions throughout the country. The party is also considering holding a grand rally in Dhaka on 2 October.

The death knell of the current parliament is ringing. The opposition camps have come out in the streets. The ruling party is also going to come out in the streets. An understanding between the two camps has become a distant possibility. The second stage of the confrontation begins 27 September. The next program will be held on 28 September. The people of the country are anxiously waiting for 27-28 September. The dialogue between the government and the leftist camp at this critical juncture has been damaging for the government, because in the past the leftists broke the neck of those on whose shoulders they stood. This benefitted the leftists, but the people on whose shoulders they stood were affected.

India

Former AEC Chief Confirms Nuclear Capability

BK2209134994 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Bombay—India has the nuclear weapons capability and there is no reason why there should be "hesitancy" on the part of the Prime Minister or the Government of India "to simply say we have got this capability and we will maintain that (capability) as long as other nations do so," former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr M R Srinivasan has said.

Speaking to Indian Express here, Dr Srinivasan who was on his way to Ooty from Vienna (the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency), said, "A former Prime Minister of Pakistan says that they have nuclear bombs and all that the Indian Prime Minister says is 'don't worry. Go back and fight the elections'. This is not good enough. There should be more positive responsibility because it is the responsibility expected of people who have been given the task of ensuring the safety of the country."

Dr Srinivasan also described as "extraordinary" a recent statement from the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan that the indigenous Prithvi missile will not be deployed with nuclear warheads. "This (kind of statement) is not necessary because the kind of defence responsibility we have to exercise) would depend on the circumstances. So we should similarly state that we are not going to give up our ability to design and build missiles which may be required for the security of the country."

The former AEC chief said this did not mean that India would want to "indulge" in a nuclear war but that the country had obvious rights to its sovereignty. So long as the nuclear weapons powers (United States, China, Russia, France and the United Kingdom) retain their rights to nuclear weapons, "so also should India exercise this option. They have no business to ask India to give up its nuclear weapons making capability", he said.

Asked to restate categorically that India did have the nuclear weapons capability Dr Srinivasan said, "There are no doubts in my mind about it, though you should also ask those in office at present. There are responsible persons who know we have the nuclear weapons capability."

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Responding to a query, he said he did not see how India could alarm the world by openly admitting to such a capability because "we have been perhaps the only nation, that has exercised nuclear restraint for a very long time - we have not had a test since 1974. Since then we have not really weaponised in any significant way. That shows we are capable of acting responsibly."

Dr Srinivasan said India's policy of restraint so far has been mistaken for a policy of weakness. "Our present political leadership at Delhi and state capitals give the impression that India is a poor country with a weak management and our intrinsic strengths are not recognised. We should have followed the Chinese example of open defiance and cultivation of force." Stating that "there are those of us who have been far from being hawkish on the nuclear question", the nuclear scientist called for India to now become more hawkish on this issue so that the legitimate interests of the country are safeguarded.

"Nuclear weapons are a fact of life. You cannot wish away the existence of these weapons. Let there be a global nuclear disarmament. Let the US and Russia bring down their nuclear warheads to the bare minimum. We are also prepared to foresee such disarmament and a limitation of nuclear weapons."

Dr Srinivasan is of the opinion that this position should be stated by our political leaders, "clearly and openly, without hedging."

Editorial Warns Against Nuclear Disarmament

BK2209140194 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Sep 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Without a Commitment"]

[Text] Indian national security is likely to be seriously jeopardised if India entertains the pretence of a commitment to nuclear disarmament that goes by the name of Comprehensive Test Ban treaty. The CTBT is not comprehensive and neither does it completely ban the testing of nuclear weapons. More specifically, it does nothing to disarm the world's nuclear powers. By kow-towing to Washington on the CTBT India is simultaneously foregoing an autonomy hitherto a hallmark of its nuclear programme, and writing off an option without even having exercised it. Flush with weapons and 80,000 tons of fissile material the nuclear weapons states can afford to entertain themselves with a loopholed CTBT, but not an India whose neighbours possess nuclear weapons and have every intention of continuing their assiduous relationship. In an uncertain security environment, New Delhi must retain the option to test nuclear weapons and make the fissile material. Anything short of that and Indian security would have gone at a bargain to the weapons states.

As the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] review conference draws near more than half the 163 members are yet undecided about its extension. Despite not being a member, nuisance is how India's position on the NPT has come to be described. If it is able to live up to the sobriquet it would be doing a great service to the world in general, and the case against nuclear weapons in particular. The NPT does nothing to address the fundamental problem: how to rid the globe of the menace of nuclear weapons. What India should be doing in the next few months is convincing the undecided that the NPT should not be extended without a commitment on the elimination of nuclear weapons. Its extension without a time-bound agreement on the destruction of all nuclear weapons will be a travesty. There are many takers for this line of thinking for they too have been short-changed into believing that the NPT is a good thing. Its abysmal record clearly indicates it is not and to make it one there has to be a committed programme to rid the world of all nuclear weapons. India's nuisance performance is subversion from without, and it can do so by ensuring that the all votes are cast at the NPT review conference. By all accounts a majority is against an indefinite extension and if they are cast accordingly there is every chance of democracy cleansing the NPT.

U.S. Criticism of Pakistan Called 'Half-Hearted'

BK2209134294 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Sep 94 p 8

[Editorial: "Still Half-Hearted"]

[Text] The US Assistant Secretary of State, Ms Robin Raphel is now a little more forthright in acknowledging Pakistani-fomented terrorism in Kashmir. It is possible that she and other officials who were anxious till recently to play down Pakistan's blatant interference in the valley have found it imprudent to dismiss well-researched reports of a Republican Task Force. It is the compilation of solid evidence of the Pakistani activities by the Task Force which has persuaded the Republican Congressman, Mr Bill McCollum to warn the administration that a nuclear-armed Pakistan at the head of an Islamic alliance and aided by China and Iran would be a threat not only to India but also to the US. That he has deemed it essential even to introduce into the Congressional record a new report on "unconventional warfare" (implicating Pakistan) shows that he and others on Capitol Hill have taken a serious view of the disquieting facts unearthed by the Task Force. Ms Robin Raphel knows that as a key official of the administration dealing with South Asia, she may be subjected to close questioning in Congress.

The more thoughtful Americans who have cared to look deeper into the Kashmir conflict still seem to think, however, that Pakistani terrorism was a development of only the late eighties. They often overlook the fact that it began nearly four decades ago. The so-called "tribal" incursion into Kashmir in October 1947 was nothing but the Pakistan army's first determined bid to seize the valley in cynical violation of the Pakistan's own Standstill Agreement with Maharaja Hari Singh. Ms Raphel and other US experts have found it expedient to ignore this genesis as well as connected aspects of the political evolution in the valley over the decades. This is why their view of the situation in Kashmir still continues to be cockeyed. It will, therefore, be premature for New Delhi to infer that the US perception of

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the complexities in Kashmir has undergone a genuine change. It is still distorted enough to enable Islamabad to make good use of the so-called principle of parity governing US policy towards India and Pakistan. Half-hearted condemnation of Pakistani terrorism by the Clinton administration stems from this irrational approach.

Commentary Praises Economy, 5 Percent Growth

BK2209130694 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Commentary by S. Sethuraman]

[Text] After three years of tough fiscal adjustment and wide-ranging reforms, the Indian economy is well-poised to record a robust growth in the fiscal year ending March 1995. The worst economic crisis, which hit the country in 1991, with acute shortage of foreign exchange and severe inflationary pressures, has now been overcome to a large extent. A relatively stable environment is now emerging for investments and higher output. Firstly, the government is determined to hold down fiscal deficit and reduce reliance on the Reserve Bank of India for automatic monetization of budget deficits. Secondly, in the wake of lowering of tax structure—direct and indirect—the revenue collections are on the rise. This should help to increase public investment in essential infrastructure in the coming years. Thirdly, the annual rate of inflation, which entered double digit in the early months of 1994, has now come down to 8 percent and is likely to moderate further in the near future. Lastly, there has been a dramatic turnaround in India's balance of payments position with foreign exchange reserves at a level of around $18 billion.

Indeed, the outstanding success of economic liberalization program is on the external front as India has begun to receive large capital flows for both direct and equity investments. Over $4 billion of investment flows took place in 1993-94 and international investment and confidence in the Indian economy remains strong. Exports from India recorded an impressive growth of 20 percent in dollar terms last year and not withstanding some decline in recent months the current year may see a rise by about 15 percent. The growth in imports points to a revival of industrial activity. Manufacturing at last seems to have come out of stagnation and the index of industrial production shows a 7 to 8 percent rise.

The overall assessment is that all the policy shifts such as industrial de-licensing, liberalization of the trade regime, and reforms in the financial sector and capital market have begun to yield results, though only over a period of years these would get reflected in higher growth rates. In a mid-year review of the economy, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, told the annual conference of economic writers that India has been able to avoid the painful transition which had been the experience of many countries undergoing structural adjustments. India has now come out of the balance of payments crisis of 1991 with the buildup in reserves and has contained the external debt accumulation. Another good monsoon has considerably brightened agricultural prospects and foodgrains production is expected to cross last year's record of 182 million tonnes. Coupled with a 7 to 8 percent industrial growth, the gross domestic product [GDP] [growth] is estimated at 5 percent or more in 1994-95. The finance minister has emphasized that a strong and vibrant economy growing at the rate of 7 to 8 percent per annum is essential if the country has to achieve near full employment by the end of this decade. Also, industrial growth should be of the order of 10 to 15 percent with strong employment orientation.

While results achieved so far from the on-going reform process are reassuring, Dr. Manmohan Singh points out that there is large unfinished agenda before the country. While the fiscal deficit can be contained to 6 percent of the GDP as targeted in this year's budget, it should be consistently lowered to a substantial level. A bolder program in disinvestment in public enterprises would generate resources which could be used to lower government debt and finance vital physical and social infrastructural programs. Subsidies have been a drain on the exchequer and the finance minister says these would have to be properly focused to benefit only the weaker sections. A modern and efficient infrastructure is a prerequisite for sustained growth of economy and large investments are needed on roads, ports and in energy sources. The state electricity boards, which have the monopoly in supply of power and are incurring heavy losses, must be made more efficient with economic pricing for different uses of electricity. As Dr. Manmohan Singh summed up, the economy has been successfully steered out of the crisis—a fact widely recognized across the world, but a large part of unfinished business lies ahead for India to complete the transformation to a modern, efficient system and take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

'Major Problem' of New Drug Policy Viewed

BK2209132894 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 17 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Underdosed"]

[Text] Policy by installments is no policy; and that is the major problem with the new drug policy. It has done several things that are, on the whole, reasonable: delicensing most drugs, releasing 69 drugs from price control, relaxing restrictions on the operations of drug companies with majority foreign equity holding. At the same time, an amended drug price control order (DPCO) as also the package of incentives for research and development in the drug industry have been kept in abeyance. This postponement of key components that define the drug industry's operational field was wholly avoidable. The government has sat on the drug policy long enough for the hatched product to be complete in every detail. The incompleteness of the policy is not the only thing that has been found wanting by the industry. It would like price control to be diluted even more. The fact remains that the case for continued price control on truly essential drugs is fairly strong.

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Apart from the absence of a free market in drugs, which makes intelligent regulation wholly desirable in principle, the experience of price control-induced efficiency in drug production makes the industry's protests on this count rather hollow. Its case is much stronger, however, when it comes to complaints about the laxity in upward revision of the controlled price in tune with the increases in costs of production. It must be ensured that the proposed national pharmaceutical pricing authority would demonstrate the needed responsiveness. Similarly, the industry's opposition to the one per cent R&D cess on turnovers is valid—the policy as it stands does not make it clear how it is going to benefit individual drug firms; and the past experience of such a cess has been that its proceeds merely augment general budgetary resources. The proposal to strengthen the institutional mechanism to improve quality control and check the menace of spurious drugs is wholly welcome. But the piecemeal philosophy of the policy announcement makes its proximate redundancy a foregone conclusion. The policy needed to subserve two goals: gearing up the industry to face up to an intellectual property regime in alignment with GATT and complementing a health policy to reduce the cost of health care. The need still remains to be met.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Official Meets India's Singh

LD2209173094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh in a meeting today with Mr. Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of Asian-Pacific affairs, said comprehensive cooperation of Asian countries to achieve true independence is a definite necessity.

Referring to the cultural ties between Iran and India, he added: The Indian Government and nation wait for the arrival of the Iranian president and believe the trip will be a new turning point in relations between the two countries.

In turn Mr. Borujerdi, while explaining Iran's views regarding recent regional issues, said the successful efforts of Iran in establishing peace between Tajik groups and government indicates Iran's firm policy of establishing peace and tranquillity in the region.

Amrollahi Meets Russian, PRC, Indian Officials

LD2209220794 Tehran IRNA in English 2138 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Vienna, Sep 22, IRNA—Iran's head of delegation, Reza Amrollahi, to the current International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 38th general conference (19-23 Sep) held nuclear cooperation talks here with several heads of conference delegations.

At his meeting with Victor Mikhailov, Russian nuclear energy minister, the two sides discussed the completion of the unit one of Bushehr nuclear plant, and bilateral scientific cooperations.

Amrollahi also met the chairman of China atomic energy authority, Jiang Xinxiong, and discussed the planned building of two Chinese 300 megawatt units in Iran, bilateral relations, and training of Iranian personnel.

During his talks with the chairman of the Indian atomic energy commission, R. Chidambaram, views were exchanged on the sale of Indian 10 megawatt nuclear reactors to Iran, and cooperations in nuclear energy training.

Amrollahi, on the sidelines of the conference, also discussed regional and of mutual interest topics with counterparts from France, Armenia, South Korea, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Iran's head of delegation also met the IAEA director-general, Hans Blix, for talks on bilateral cooperations.

Uzbek Official Praises Work on Tajik Accord

LD2209223494 Tehran IRNA in English 2207 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 22, IRNA—Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Shahislamov [name as received] in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Tashkent Hashemi-Golpayegani in Tashkent today hailed the Iranian role in a cease-fire agreement signed early Sunday [18 September] morning in Tehran between Tajik fighting parties.

Golpayegani briefed the topics of the agreement signed in Tehran between Tajik ruling government and the opposition parties and reviewed Tehran-Tashkent bilateral as well as regional cooperation in his visit with Shahislamov.

Shahislamov described the Tajik cease-fire accord which was signed by an initiative of the Iranian authorities as a "principal step" towards settlement of peace and stability in the region.

He also emphasized on his government's giving support to the Tajik cease-fire accord and called for continuation of political consultations between the Iranian and Uzbek authorities.

In this meeting, Shahislamov stressed on the necessity of using of Iranian ways, connecting roads and seaports by Uzbekistan for its expanding cooperation with the Asian and European countries.

Second Bridge to Azerbaijani Enclave Opened

NC2309111194 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 23 (AFP)—Iran has built a new bridge to the autonomous Azeri territory of Nakhichevan over the bordering Araks river, officials said Friday [23 September].

A first group of Iranians and residents of Nakhichevan crossed the Pol Dasht bridge after a ceremony earlier this week attended by officials from both sides, they said.

Pol Dasht is the second crossing point between Iran and Nakhichevan, which is a part of Azerbaijan but sandwiched between Iran, Turkey and Armenia.

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Previously, the city of Jolfa, 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Tabriz in Iran's East Azerbaijan province, had been the main link along the 170-kilometer (105-mile) border.

Under a bilateral agreement, citizens of the two countries can cross and enter up to 45 kilometers (30 miles) without a visa on Saturdays and Sundays, and stay for 15 days.

With an area of 5,500 square kilometers (2,200 square miles), Nakhichevan has a population of more than 270,000, mainly Shiite Muslims, like the majority in Iran.

Commentary on French Military Sales to Pakistan

LD2209211194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During the current visit of French Defense Minister Francois Leotard to Pakistan, an important agreement for the purchase of three French submarines by Pakistan was signed on Wednesday, 21 September. The $1 billion agreement, concluded after two years of lengthy talks, is an important military sales deal clinched by France. It is also rated as the biggest military purchase by Pakistan in recent years. The French, while competing with Britain and America, worked hard to clinch the deal at any cost. They intend to expand their military sales market, increasing their influence in the Indian subcontinent through Pakistan.

The agreement will activate industries in France and provide a chance for its military industries to further compete with such main rivals as the Netherlands, China, Sweden, Britain, and America. In recent years French military industries have faced considerable stagnation. According to the estimates made by the French press, manufacture of the components of the three submarines will provide jobs to workers for more than 3 million hours. Out of this total time, 500,000 hours of work will be the annual share of work for France's military industries for a four-year period.

The agreement between France and Pakistan, apart from the details on payment of the expenditures, has also stipulated the transfer of technical know-how on the manufacture and assembly of these submarines to Pakistan.

In the opinion of political analysts, Pakistan approach to European states for meeting its defense requirements when America, due to certain problems in its relations with Islamabad, cancelled the sale of F-16 fighters to Pakistan [sentence as heard]. France, which has enjoyed cordial ties with Pakistan since early time, has been assessed as one the suitable substitutes for procuring its military requirements. At present many French-made mine-sweepers, submarines, and a number of aircraft, including Mirage planes, are in the service of Pakistan Army. This same issue provides Paris an opportunity to be optimistic about larger sales of its military weapons, as compared to other rivals.

In general, one can say that the visit of the French defense minister and the conclusion of new military cooperation agreement between Paris and Islamabad have ushered a new era in bilateral relations. Undoubtedly such ties will, however, arouse concern in New Delhi.

'Hackneyed' Charges on Nuclear Program Examined

NC2209202194 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "International Zionism and its Hackneyed Charges Against Iran"]

[Text] Recently, undocumented charges against the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear program have been circulating. It is not anything new. Despite repeated testimonies from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to the effect that Iran's nuclear facilities are solely meant for peaceful purposes, the unsubstantiated charges against Iran are that it is involved in producing nuclear weapons. Iran's accusers have the audacity to question the credibility of IAEA, an official body of the United Nations.

John Holmes, the head of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Committee, has questioned the veracity of the IAEA. "Statements that testify Iran has no nuclear weapons program does not convince the U.S." he has said.

It makes one think why certain circles repeat these charges, notwithstanding the statements by IAEA. The hackneyed charges against Iran are: supporting terrorism, opposing the so-called middle east peace process, and producing nuclear weapons.

The main source for these charges are international Zionism and its institutions. For example, we can refer to the Rand Corporation and the Carnegie Foundation as two Zionist think tanks that have perpetrated such lies against Iran.

The alternate repetition of these charges, individually or collectively, is meant to create anxiety in the region and the world regarding Iran's role. Another aim of the unfair charges against Iran is to sour relations between Iran and countries like Russia, the People's Republic of China, Japan and Germany, whose governments follow the rational program of expanding relations with other countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is something Washington does not favor because it disrupts its plan to become the number one world power.

As a victim of Iraqi chemical weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran has experienced the lethal effects of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, Iran has taken upon itself to oppose, by any means necessary, the production, proliferation and use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are just as deadly as chemical weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also voiced its strong opposition to the fact that the Zionist regime has produced and amassed a large stockpile of nuclear weapons.

Being both a victim of weapons of mass destruction, and morally opposed to their use against God's creatures, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always opposed the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons, and, as a matter of

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fact, has spearheaded efforts to declare the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. It is just another commentary on the "fairness" of the New World order that a country as passionate as Iran in its opposition to weapons of mass destruction should confront such baseless charges.

But Iran does not mind such allegations coming from Zionists, because its conscience is clear.

UAE Officials Criticized for Claims on Islands

LD2209183594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1510 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The incorrect stances adopted by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] on the Iranian islands have been criticized by most of Tehran's morning papers.

The JAHAN-E ESLAM newspaper expresses astonishment at the recent stance of the GCC member countries regarding the referral of the issue of the Iranian islands to the Hague court and writes: If the GCC foreign ministers imagine that they can exert pressure on Iran in this way to force it to forgo its sovereignty over a section of its territory, it must be said that the GCC is still a long way away from discerning reality.

The ABRAR newspaper believes that the GCC should be warned against the consequences of its stances and reminded that power of diplomacy is not something that can be imported. ABRAR expresses doubt whether UAE [United Arab Emirates] officials are competent to sit at the negotiation table and writes: How can those who do not even dare to draw breath without first seeking permission from others say they are ready for negotiations? Do the UAE officials imagine that power of diplomacy is a water pump or tomato ketchup that they can import from the West? Or do they think that they can internationalize the issue of Abu Musa through petrodollars?

The JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper raises the American involvement in the recent stance of the GCC more explicitly. The JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper refers to the recent remarks of the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, who has said that Iran is disturbing regional stability and writes: This is not the first time the U.S. ambassador allows himself to arbitrate so impudently on issues that have the least to do with him and his government.

The paper warns the Arab countries of the region to learn a lesson from the past and not venture down any well by using the worn-out U.S. rope.

Pakistan

Beg Seeks Constitutional Role for Military

BK2309110294 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Sep 94 pp 1, 9

[Text] Rawalpindi, Sept. 22: Former chief of army staff [COAS] (retd.) Mirza Aslam Beg said here on Thursday that a war has erupted among the senior commanders for the top slot of COAS in the wake of continued rumours spread by political circles that after Gen Shamim Alam's term as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee expires, he would be replaced by Gen. Abdul Waheed Kakar.

Beg in an article entitled Jamhooriat Ka Daman Tar Tar (Democracy in tatters) released to the national press today has revealed that both the political antagonists are trying desperately to woo military support for which they have created their own circles in the military.

Beg further said both the PPP and PML (N) are outwitting each other in getting the patronisation of the top military brass. He said the Government and the Opposition both want to see their own man in the slot of COAS which according to Beg has endangered the institution of the Army itself.

The ex-Army chief said when the military starts going against professional obligations it heavily tells upon the patriotism of the military. He warned if the military unfortunately opts for detracking the democracy in the country the result would be nothing short of the total destruction. He alleged some political sections crave for the imposition of martial law which spells bad times ahead.

Beg said the direct interference of the Army in the ongoing political process would also make impossible the possibility of forming a national government as our leadership lacks in confidence and foresight.

The retired Army chief noted that the past experience of the involvement of military has not proved a happy omen as the repetition of installing another Moeen Qureshi would result in further degeneration. He said to avert any likely eventuality, the constitutional role of the military must be formalised and its right to interfere according to the demands of the situation be accepted which according to Beg could eliminate the danger of martial law once and for all. The ex-Army chief suggested that after determining the constitutional character of the military an interim national government could be established which should be allowed to normalise the situation with the interim period. Continuing with his hypothesis he added during this interim period there should be no check on political activities.

Beg also regretted that the country's political masters were engaged in purchasing the loyalties of the military leadership and they have targeted the respected institution as a political hobby.

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